



MICHIGAN FOUNDATION FOR  
**AGRICULTURE**

LEADERSHIP | PROMOTION | SCHOLARSHIP | EDUCATION

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Can you imagine a world  
where agriculture is valued  
by everyone?**

**We can.**



**OUR MISSION**

Positively contribute to the future  
of Michigan agriculture through leadership  
and educational programming.

# Message from the Chair

Dear friends,

When I look back over the past year, there's two words that come top-of-mind: THANK YOU. It takes a large group of supporters and advocates to make the work of the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture happen.



And we wouldn't be where we are today, celebrating an amazing year of programming, outreach and leadership, without you.

Over this past year, we've rolled up our sleeves to come up with systems to evaluate and track the impact we're making in schools. We launched our FARM Science Van this fall, fully booked our two FARM Science Labs and helped support a county Agriculture in the Classroom specialist in Ottawa. With the help of volunteers, we've shared our agricultural literacy resources with more teachers and students than ever before. And we're not finished yet.

Whether you support our leadership programs — growing the skills and confidence of agricultural youth or Young Farmers — or our agricultural literacy efforts, I hope these pages help you better see and understand the tangible difference you're making. We hope you can take pride in your investment and see the dividends it's paying for the future of Michigan agriculture.

We truly appreciate your ongoing support and partnership, and we look forward to sharing more data and testimonials throughout 2024.

Sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Bednarski". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**Carl Bednarski**

*Michigan Foundation for Agriculture Board Chair*



## **AGRICULTURAL LITERACY IMPACT**

Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom impacted 31,576 students and 6,431 teachers in 1,536 Michigan schools in 2023 through the following programs.

# FARM Science Lab



Two 40-foot mobile classrooms, equipped with teaching technologies, tooled with STEM-based lessons and aligned with science and agricultural literacy standards.



## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



17,430  
Students



790  
Teachers



62  
Schools



39  
Counties

# FARM Science Van



A new delivery model, delivering hands-on FARM Science Lab lessons to students right in their classrooms.



## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



600  
Students



27  
Teachers



6  
Schools



3  
Counties

# FARM Crates



Hands-on, educational subscription boxes, delivered to K-5th grade classrooms across the state during the school year.



## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



1,874 Crates  
Ordered



1,802 Refill Kits  
Ordered



1,422  
Schools



65  
Counties

# Educator Professional Developments

Training and resources provided to pre-service high school and college students studying education as well as current educators.



## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



24 Pre-Service Students



395 Current Teachers



7 Trainings & Conferences

# Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom County Specialist

Contract educator who visits classrooms and career fairs, hosts regional teacher professional development sessions and works with volunteers to lead student outreach activities throughout Ottawa County.



## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



8,680 Students



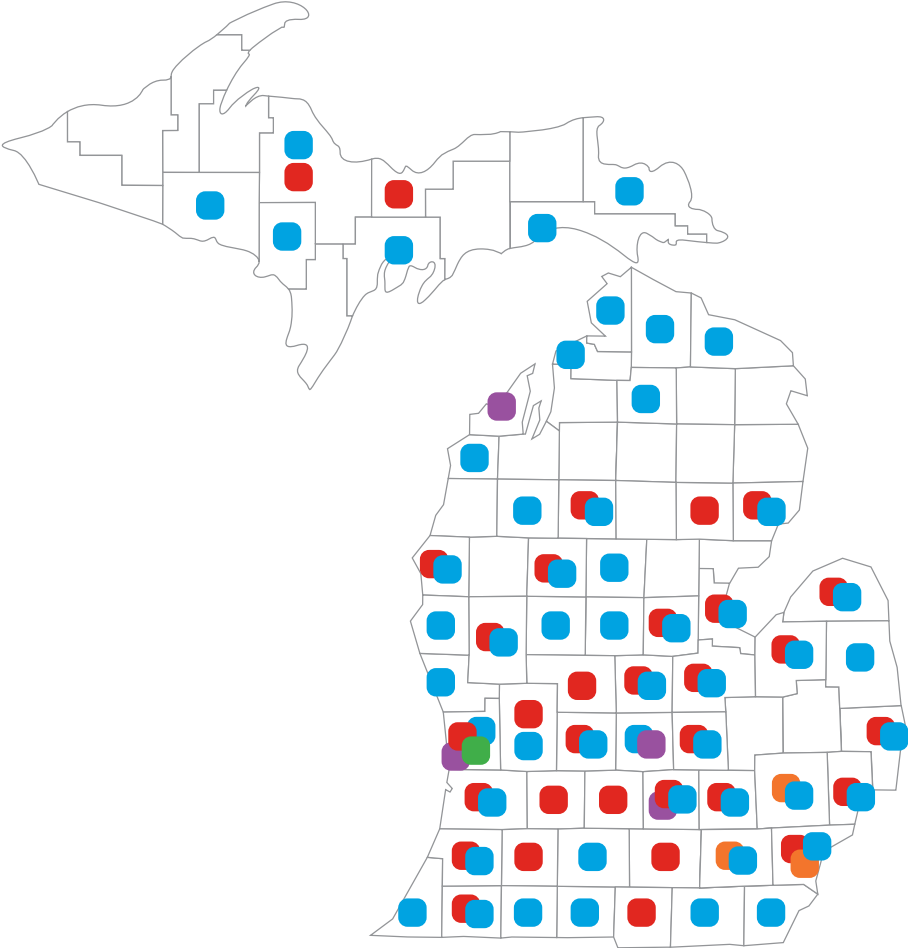
329 Teachers








46 Schools



# AGRICULTURAL LITERACY PROGRAM REACH TO DATE



-  FARM Science Lab
-  FARM Science Van
-  FARM Crates
-  MIAITC County Specialist
-  Educator Professional Developments

# One Year Down, Two to Go

Thank you for coming alongside us to support our three-year pilots of...

- **FARM SCIENCE LAB**
- **FARM SCIENCE VAN**
- **FARM CRATES**
- **MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM COUNTY SPECIALIST**

We've spent the last year working on evaluations to measure the effectiveness of each of these pilots and launching our brand-new FARM Science Van. We're still looking for strategic partners to make these pilots a reality and look forward to sharing what we're learning as they progress in 2024 and 2025.

"Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom programming provides a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about agriculture. There are many ties back to curriculum, making it a great experience for all students and beneficial to our school. All lessons taught directly relate back to content being taught in kindergarten through fifth grade classes today."

**AMY POPEK, PRINCIPAL**  
*Dansville Elementary School*



## **AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP IMPACT**

Michigan Foundation for Agriculture programs delivered leadership development opportunities to 758 members and young leaders from 61 county Farm Bureaus in 2023.

# High School and Collegiate



Building skills for career readiness, leadership opportunities and advocacy for agriculture.

## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

- **150 students** from **26 counties** competed in **six regional High School Discussion Meets**.
- **6 Collegiate Farm Bureau members** from our **13 collegiate chapters** competed in the Collegiate Discussion Meet.
- **797 pails** were distributed to high school students through county Farm Bureau efforts.
- **20 FFA chapters and Collegiate Farm Bureau members** shared consumer messages through **#SpeakAgMichigan**.

# Promotion & Education



Preparing agriculture leaders to be the active voice for agriculture while educating consumers about our industry.

## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

- **230 members** attended the Voice of Agriculture Conference, learning about consumer outreach, business and leadership development.
- **6 new county P&E leaders** completed a six-month leadership development webinar series.
- **10 innovative county P&E projects** were showcased at State Annual Meeting.
- **15 State Committee members** participated in leadership development modules throughout the year.

# Young Farmers



Developing 18-35-year-old agriculture leaders for service in their county Farm Bureaus and communities.

## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

- **95 young farmers** competed in District Discussion Meets.
- **46 young farmers** from **30 counties** submitted award applications.
- **231 members** attended Young Farmer Leaders Conference.
- **17 young farmers** graduated from ProFILE.
- **29 county committee chairs** participated in our Chair Summit.

“Being a part of ProFILE has been one of the best leadership opportunities I have ever been a part of. We experienced deep dives in multiple areas of interest such as agriculture, leadership, communication and of course had amazing trips along the way. The connections I made and the skills they helped me to develop are absolutely invaluable.”

**SARAH ZASTROW**

*Midland County Farm Bureau*



## **DONOR RECOGNITION**

None of the efforts included in this report would be possible without the support of our generous donors. Support equates to greater opportunities to share agriculture's impact on our daily lives and development of leaders.

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- Michigan Farm Bureau
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- Michigan Pork Producers
- Michigan Soybean Committee
- Michigan State University AgBio Research
- Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources



- Michigan State University Extension
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- Wayne County Farm Bureau

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# Leader Recognition

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## **Learn More and Get Involved**

**CONTACT KATE THIEL**

*Michigan Foundation for Agriculture Manager*

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