

At the Table

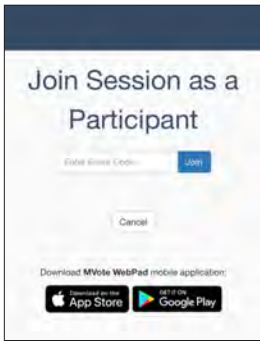
INTRODUCTION
TO THE

2024

**DELEGATE
SESSION**

CloudVOTE Instructions

To login to CloudVOTE, go to joincloudvote.com on your device's web browser or scan the QR code with your device's camera.



Enter the **Event Code** for your meeting. This will be provided to you as a delegate.



Enter your credentials to validate your voting privileges. You'll receive your **Access Code** from your Delegate Chair.



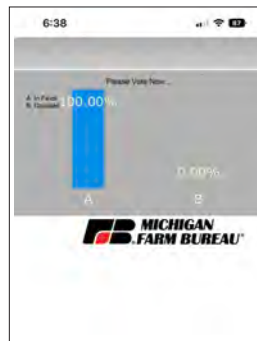
After a successful login, you will see the Michigan Farm Bureau logo.



When the chairperson prompts you to vote, please select **A. In Favor** or **B. Opposed**.



Your selected vote will be highlighted in blue and you will see "Vote has been received successfully."



When voting is closed, the results from the vote will be displayed on your device.

Common Prompts and What To Do

Connection Lost/Timed Out
If you receive this prompt, select "YES" to reload the page.

Page Can't Be Found
If you receive this prompt, refresh the webpage. You may need to re-enter the Event Code and your credentials.

Confirm Navigation
If you receive this prompt, select "STAY ON THIS PAGE" to reload the page.

Delegate Substitution Process

- Delegate Chairs are responsible for providing their delegates with credentials for logging into CloudVOTE.
- If you are a voting delegate and are exiting the delegate session (in-person or virtual), please remember to close out of your web browser in order to allow another delegate from your county to replace you.

Additional Delegate Information

Visit michfb.com/annual-meeting/delegates or scan the QR code for more information about serving as an in-person or virtual delegate.





October 28, 2024

Dear Annual Meeting Voting Delegates:

Here is your copy of the proposed 2024 Michigan Farm Bureau policy resolutions book. I encourage your county Farm Bureau voting delegates to review the book before participating in the MFB Annual Meeting delegate sessions on Dec. 3 and 4. Amendment forms will be available at the district meetings and during the annual meeting delegate sessions. They are also online at <https://bit.ly/MFBamendment>.

This book includes the policy schedule, with those scheduled for discussion located in the yellow section. This will help delegates plan for the discussion on issues receiving significant input from county Farm Bureaus. All other state and MFB policies (amended and reaffirmed) will be voted on by title only, five at a time. Delegates may request to withdraw a policy from the group, to be discussed and voted on separately. AFBF policy recommendations will be reviewed individually.

New Policy Issues

The MFB Policy Development Committee will also consider issues or changes to policy if they are *new and have surfaced since your county annual meeting or were not covered or discussed at your county annual meeting*.

Additionally, members wanting to *present a new resolution on a topic not included in the proposed resolutions book* may share ideas for consideration by the Committee.

Members with ideas, amendments, or new policies that fall into the above category may submit them at district meetings or online at <https://bit.ly/MFBamendment> but not later than Monday, Nov. 25 at 3 p.m.

Policy Amendments

Amendments to an existing policy will be accepted until the close of the delegate session on Dec. 4. Delegates can submit an amendment by:

- Filling out a paper form (available at the district meetings and delegate sessions) and giving it to an MFB staff member, or
- Filling out an online form at <https://bit.ly/MFBamendment>

If you have questions, please contact your MFB regional manager, or call me at 517-679-5342 (or evenings at 517-230-1511) and I am glad to assist.

Thank you for your participation and we look forward to another excellent policy discussion!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew G. Smego'.

Matthew G. Smego, Director
Public Policy and Commodity Division

cc: MFB Policy Development Committee
MFB Board of Directors
County Farm Bureau Administrative Managers
MFB Staff

REPORT OF RULES COMMITTEE

Annual Meeting of Delegates - Michigan Farm Bureau

November 6th – December 4th, 2024

Officers and directors of Michigan Farm Bureau, and such other persons who are not delegates to this meeting but who are recognized by the Chair, shall have equal rights to the floor with voting delegates in the discussion of questions, subject to time limitations imposed by the Chair. Such persons shall not, however, have the right to make or second motions, make or second nominations, or vote, except that directors and members of the Policy Development, Rules, and Credentials Committees may make and second motions and nominations, but shall not vote unless they are also duly elected delegates.

Upon being recognized by the Chair, the person shall upon all occasions, except when seconding a motion, first state his or her name and the County he or she represents. Each person, upon officially being granted the floor, shall be limited to two minutes for the discussion of any question, and shall not be entitled to recognition a second time on the same question until all who are entitled to the privilege shall have had the opportunity to be heard. Upon request, the time limitation may be extended in any particular case by two thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates. Whenever any delegate, upon being recognized by the Chair, discusses any question, such delegate may not, while still maintaining the floor, move the previous question for the purpose of closing debate.

Debate must be confined to the merits of the pending question. Speakers must address their remarks to the chair, maintain a courteous tone, and – especially in reference to any divergence of opinion – avoid injecting a personal note into debate. To this end, they must never attack or make any allusion to the motives of members. RONR (12th ed.) 4:30.

Any delegate who desires to offer a resolution on a topic not included in the report of the Policy Development Committee shall present the same to the Policy Development Committee, in legible writing, not later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 25, 2024. The Policy Development Committee shall review each such resolution to determine whether it will recommend the resolution to the delegates, and copies of any resolution recommended by the Committee shall be distributed to each delegate by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. Any such resolution not recommended by the Committee shall be returned to the delegate and to the Chairperson of the delegation offering the resolution, who may present it from the floor after all resolutions recommended by the Policy Development Committee have been considered. The person presenting the resolution from the floor shall be responsible for providing a copy of such resolution to each delegate who is attending in person and shall notify the Policy Development Committee who will distribute the resolution to the remote attendees electronically.

Call to order for the opening of the business meeting shall be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 6th. The meeting shall be recessed at 8:00 p.m. on that day. District caucuses will take place between November 7th and December 3rd. The meeting shall be reconvened at 2:45 p.m. on December 3rd and adjourned at 5:30 p.m. on December 4th.

For 2024, delegates may participate in person or remotely through an electronic device, however, if a remotely participating delegate encounters technical difficulties with participation, the Chair may choose to proceed with the Annual Meeting at his or her discretion.

Also, delegates may substitute with a credentialed alternate delegate; however, registration for each delegate session will be locked after the following timeframes:

For the December 3rd delegate session, delegate seating registration will close November 25th at 3:00 p.m.; for the December 4th delegate session, delegate seating registration will close December 2nd at 3:00 p.m.

The following order of business is approved:

1. Call to order.
2. Proof of Service of Notice.
3. Report of Credentials Committee.
4. Report of Rules Committee.
5. Minutes of 2023 annual meeting.
6. Chief Operating Officer's Report.
7. Treasurer's Report.
8. Report of Bylaw Review Committee.
9. Proposed bylaw changes from St. Clair, Lapeer, and Huron counties.
10. Report of Policy Development Committee.
11. President's Address.
12. Nomination of directors by even-numbered districts, and any district with a director vacancy to be made in district caucuses.
13. Election of directors to be held on Wednesday morning, December 4th, 2024 -- election of directors representing even-numbered districts and any district with a director vacancy, the Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee, and the Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee.
14. Call for candidates for the office of the President.

15. Nomination of a director for the office of President to be conducted on Wednesday, December 4th. The Board of Directors shall announce to the delegate body its choice for the office of President.
16. Nomination and election, if necessary, of director-at-large if vacant due to election of President.
17. New business.

The Chair is empowered to vary the order of business as necessity may require.

The business of the meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order except as provided in these rules. A motion approved during the meeting may be reconsidered if a motion to reconsider is approved by majority vote. Reconsideration shall take place after all other policy resolutions in the Policy Development Committee report have been considered, but prior to any new policies or business. The Chair may appoint one or more parliamentarians.

Rules for Electing Directors:

1. Nominees for director positions must meet the qualifications established by the Bylaws. In addition, the Bylaws provide that no more than one person from the same immediate family or farming operation and, except in the case of the President who may be from the same district as another director-at-large, no more than one director-at-large from a particular district may serve on the Board of Directors at any one time. Each candidate for director shall provide in writing, on the first day of State Annual Meeting, a statement describing how they meet the bylaw qualifications for directors to be “directly and actively engaged in farming as owners and/or operators of farms whose primary interest is in farming” and attesting that they are not employed full-time in an occupation other than farming nor serving in a county, state or national elective office. This statement must be provided to the Secretary of Michigan Farm Bureau who will provide it to the delegates.
2. District, Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee, and Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Directors.
 - a. Nominations for district directors for two-year terms shall be made by delegates from the even-numbered districts at their respective caucuses. Nomination of one director from each even-numbered district shall be made from the floor during the election process, and there shall be no other nominations from the floor for district directors.
 - b. Nominations for one-year terms for a director representing the Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee and a director representing the Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee shall be made from the floor by the duly authorized representatives of such committees. There shall be no other nominations from the floor for directors representing these committees.
 - c. Nominating speeches for district directors and the directors representing the Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee and the Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee shall not exceed two minutes each. There shall be a limit of one speech not

to exceed two minutes to second a nomination for such directors, and their election may be by acclamation.

General Rules:

When resolutions that constitute changes to present policies are presented by the Policy Development Committee, only the additions or deletions shall be noted or summarized. Resolutions that constitute new policies shall be read in their entirety.

Any person offering an amendment or substitute motion from the floor that affects more than 10 lines of text in the preprinted proposed policy resolutions book (the amount of text that can be shown at one time on the screen in the meeting room) shall be responsible for providing a copy of such amendment or substitute motion to each delegate who is present in person and shall notify the Policy Development Committee who will distribute the amendment to the remote attendees electronically. Any person offering an amendment adding more than 5 words to a main motion shall submit the amendment in writing to the policy development administrative staff so that the amendment can be accurately displayed on the meeting room monitors in a timely fashion.

In accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, all votes on motions will be taken via voice vote. In the event that a delegate wishes to vote on a motion using another means of voting, the delegate may call for a division after the voice vote. Electronic Voting Devices may be utilized at this time. The final result will be displayed to the delegates. Electronic votes of individual delegates will be kept confidential and destroyed after Annual Meeting.

In the event a resolution has been discussed for fifteen (15) minutes and not resolved, it shall be moved to the end of the agenda. A two-minute warning shall be given.

For the Report of the Bylaw Review Committee, the chair of the committee will read the report of the committee. Upon conclusion of the reading of the report, each bylaw amendment will be taken up in turn and placed on the floor for discussion by the delegates. In the event that a proposed amendment has been discussed for fifteen (15) minutes and not resolved, it shall be moved to the end of the agenda. A two-minute warning will be given. These rules will also apply to the discussion and debate of the proposed bylaw changes presented by St. Clair, Lapeer, and Huron counties.

In cases where written ballots are used, ballots shall be distributed only to those persons wearing an official delegate badge, and tellers shall be selected from the delegate body with a Chairperson designated.

Handing out or distributing literature produced by organizations other than Michigan Farm Bureau or its affiliated companies within the convention hall during the period of the convention shall be prohibited unless prior permission is granted by the Rules Committee, and access to the delegate floor during delegate sessions shall be restricted to qualified delegates, members of annual meeting committees, members of the Board of Directors, and designated staff members of Michigan Farm Bureau.

Cell phones shall be set to silent mode during all delegate sessions.

SIGNED BY THE COMMITTEE:

Mark Arends, Chair
President, Muskegon County

Jill Hershberger
President, Cass County

Dan Keenan
President, Saginaw County

2024 State Policy Development Committee



Loren King
St. Joseph
District 1



Blaine Baker
Lenawee
District 2



Jason Sahloff, Vice Chair
Monroe
District 3



Kylee Zdunic-Rasch
Kent
District 4



Charles Goeke
Ingham
District 5



Luke Ewald
Tuscola
District 6



Todd Fox
Oceana
District 7



Frank Zwemmer
Gratiot
District 8



Jennifer Smeltzer
Benzie-Manistee
District 9



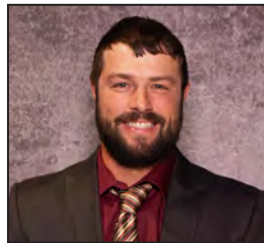
Jeremy Karsten
Presque Isle
District 11



Anthony Lampinen
Copper Country
District 12



Jeff Dreves
Northwest Michigan
Young Farmer



Lane Grieser
Montcalm
Young Farmer



Mitch Kline
Kalamazoo
Young Farmer



Chris Sanford
Jackson
Young Farmer



Stacey Lauwers
St. Clair
Promotion & Education



Brian Pridgeon
Branch
At-Large



Emily Boeve
Ottawa
At-Large



Michael Mulders
Bay
MFB Board



Leona Daniels
Arenac
MFB Board



Patrick McGuire, Chair
Antrim
MFB Board

***District 10, vacant**

2024 Board of Directors



Larry Walton
Sturgis
District 1 Director



Jennifer Lewis
Jonesville
District 2 Director



Mike Fusilier
Manchester
District 3 Director



Jeff Sandborn
Portland
District 4 Director



Stephanie Schafer
Westphalia
District 5 Director



Travis Fahley
Yale
District 6 Director



Michael DeRuijter
Hart
District 7 Director



Michael Mulders
Essexville
District 8 Director



Ben LaCross
Lake Leelanau
District 9 Director



Leona Daniels
Sterling
District 10 Director



Patrick McGuire,
Vice President
Ellsworth
District 11 Director



Dave Bahrman
Rumely
District 12 Director



Jess Erler
Reed City
P&E Representative



Abby Vittore
Britton
YF Representative



Carl Bednarski,
President
Caro
At-Large Director



Abe Pasch
Weidman
At-Large Director



Paul Pridgeon
Montgomery
At-Large Director

Public Policy & Commodity Division Team



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Policy Development and Public Policy Committee Outreach



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Andrew Vermeesch
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 & Advanced Regional Manager
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 Forestry

**For more than 100 years, Michigan Farm Bureau
 has been the voice of Michigan agriculture.
 Our advocacy team understands that policy and
 politics play a key role in protecting the interests,
 passions and livelihoods of members.**

2024 Proposed Changes to the Michigan Farm Bureau Bylaws

Articles that contain proposed changes are **highlighted**.
Underlined Blue text indicates proposed new/added language.
~~Red-Struck~~ text indicates proposed language for removal.

BYLAWS

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

ARTICLE I

Name

The name by which this association shall be known in law shall be:

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purposes for which this association has been formed are those set forth in article II of the articles of incorporation of the association, as the same were amended on November 12, 1931 and November 10, 1950.

ARTICLE III

Place of Business

The office of this association, and its principal place of business shall be at Lansing, Michigan. (As amended November 9, 1972.)

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1. Membership Qualifications. To be eligible for membership in this association, upon approval of the membership application of such applicant, at the direction of the board of directors, a person must meet ONE of the following criteria:

- Be engaged in agricultural production including lessees and tenants of land used for the

production of such products;

- Be engaged in the agricultural industry;
- Be lessors and landlords who receive as rent all or any part of the crop raised on the leased or rented premises, or the proceeds thereof;
- Have been members for a period of five consecutive years immediately prior to retiring from farming, provided an unbroken record of payment of dues is maintained.

(As amended November 13, 1954, November 12, 1957, and November 29, 2016.)

Section 2. Family Membership. Membership in this association shall be a family membership comprised of the husband and wife and shall include all unmarried children until the end of the calendar year in which any such child reaches the age of 21 years. (As amended November 13, 1954 and December 14, 1973.)

Section 3. Collegiate Membership. College, university or trade school students, at least 18 years of age, interested in membership may become collegiate members by paying the dues of the Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter, in good standing, at their place of education. Collegiate members must be pursuing undergraduate degrees or certifications. (As amended November 28, 2018)

Section 4. Associate Membership. Other persons interested in membership may become associate members by making application and if accepted by the county board of directors, upon execution of a membership agreement, will be entitled to the rights of membership, excepting the right to vote. (As amended December 12, 1975 and November 29, 2016.)

Section 5. Term of Membership. The term of membership of any member of this association shall continue only during the term for which his dues are fully paid and accepted by the association, and such member fulfills all other qualification requirements. (As amended November 13, 1954.)

Section 6. Obligations of Membership. Persons becoming members or associate members of this association shall be bound by the provisions of these bylaws, the articles of incorporation, and the rules and regulations adopted by this association.

Section 7. Transfer of Membership. Each member shall be entitled to a certificate of membership signed by the president of Michigan Farm Bureau. Membership shall not be transferable by assignment, sale or inheritance. (As amended December 14, 1973.)

Section 8. Expulsion and Cancellation. Any member may be expelled from this association, and his membership cancelled for flagrant and persistent violation of the bylaws, rules, and regulations of this association, or for engaging in any course of conduct inimical and hostile to this association and the purposes for which it was formed. Ten (10) days written notice must be given such member, requesting him to appear before the board of directors, and to make answer to charges upon which the claim for expulsion is

based. If, after hearing, the board of directors finds that the charges are true, they may expel the member from membership in the association, or suspend his voting rights herein for such time as the board of directors may determine. Upon expulsion, all interest of the expelled member in this association and in its property and business, shall cease. (As amended November 8, 1956.)

Section 9. Reinstatement. In the event that a member of the association having once been expelled, as herein provided, shall rectify the situation upon which his expulsion was based to the satisfaction of the board of directors, the said board of directors shall have authority to determine the manner and means by which such member may be reinstated in this association.

~~**Section 10. Life Membership.** Life membership in the Michigan Farm Bureau issued prior to November 8, 1944, shall entitle the holders thereof to all rights granted thereunder, including membership in the respective county Farm Bureaus. No further life memberships shall be recognized if issued after November 8, 1944.~~

ARTICLE V

Local Units County Farm Bureaus

Members of this association resident of or located in any county of the state of Michigan may, for purposes of representation in this association, organize a local unit hereof, to be designated as a county Farm Bureau. Any local county Farm Bureau, whose members are members of this association, shall be deemed, for all purposes of membership, including the right to vote and participate in the conduct of the affairs of this association, a recognized local unit of this association. Such recognized local units shall participate in the conduct of the business and affairs of this association by the election of voting delegates, as hereinafter provided.

Collegiate members of this association may, for purposes of representation in this association, organize a local unit hereof, to be designated as a Collegiate Farm Bureau. Any Collegiate Farm Bureau, whose members are collegiate members of this association, shall be deemed, for all purposes of membership, including the right to participate in the conduct of the affairs of this association, a recognized collegiate unit of this association. A collegiate Farm Bureau is not entitled to voting delegates under Article VI of these bylaws. (As amended November 29, 2018)

ARTICLE VI

Government

Section 1. Voting Delegates. For the purpose of holding annual and special meetings of the members of this association, and to provide for the participation by the members in the

business and affairs of the association, there are hereby created voting delegates to represent the members at meetings of the association. Such voting delegates, when duly accredited shall have and exercise, as the representatives of the members, all the powers, rights and privileges of the members by whom they have been elected. A voting delegate must be a regular member in good standing of this association and of the local unit which he or she represents, and must be certified by the county Farm Bureau board of directors as being actively engaged in agriculture and able to represent the interests of the county Farm Bureau and agriculture, provided, however, no employee of this association or any of this association's affiliated companies [or seated members of the National or State Legislative bodies](#) may be a voting delegate. (As amended November 11, 1964, December 14, 1973, November 30, 1988, and November 29, 2016.)

Section 2. Election of Delegates. Each local unit provided in article V hereof shall be entitled to at least two (2) voting delegates. In addition thereto, each local unit shall be entitled to an additional voting delegate for each one hundred (100) members or major portion thereof, in excess of the first two hundred (200) members. The total number of associate members will be deducted from the total membership in each local unit in determining the number of delegates to which the unit is entitled. The right to additional voting delegates shall be based upon the number of paid-up memberships in good standing of each such local unit, as shown by the membership records kept in the office of this association as of the close of the fiscal year of the association next preceding the membership meeting. (As amended November 11, 1964.)

Section 3. Alternates. In the event the members of any local unit so desire, they may elect alternates to serve in the case of absence or disability of a delegate. Such alternate shall have the same qualifications, and be elected in the same manner as delegates.

Section 4. Time of Election. Voting delegates and alternates shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the local unit which they represent at regular or special meetings of the members of such local units, to be held prior to the annual meeting of the association. In the event that the members of any local unit authorize the governing body of such local unit to designate the voting delegate or delegates for such unit, the designation by the governing body of such local unit of a delegate or delegates shall be in lieu of the election thereof provided in the next preceding paragraph.

Each local unit, through its president, secretary, or other officer, shall certify the names of its delegates and alternates to the secretary of this association at least five (5) days prior to any annual or special meeting of this association.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of this corporation shall be held at the

time and place as shall be determined by the board of directors. A written notice stating the time and place of the meeting shall be mailed to the secretary and president of each county Farm Bureau unit not less than thirty (30) nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the date of such meeting. (As amended November 30, 1995.)

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the president, and he shall call a special meeting whenever one-tenth (1/10) or more of the members, or a majority of the board of directors shall, in writing so request. Written notice of such special meetings shall be given, by mail [and email](#), to each accredited voting delegate or alternate at his post office address [and email](#) as appears on the records of the association, at least ten (10) days before the date of such meeting. Such notice shall state the time and place of the meeting, and the item or items of business to be transacted thereat.

Section 3. Quorum. At all meetings of the voting delegates, representatives from a majority of the county Farm Bureau units shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4. Voting. Voting at annual or special meetings of the association shall be by delegates having one vote per delegate, elected in accordance with article VI of these bylaws. (This section added November 11, 1948.)

ARTICLE VIII

Board of Directors

Section 1. Number and Qualifications. All the corporate capacity of this association shall be vested in, and all of its corporate powers shall be exercised by a board of directors, consisting of seventeen members, to be elected as hereinafter provided. The property and lawful business of the association shall be held and managed by said board of directors. (As amended December 1, 1988.)

The members of the board of directors shall fulfill the membership qualifications set forth in article IV, section 1, of these bylaws and such persons shall be directly and actively engaged [full-time](#) in farming as owners and/or operators of farms whose primary interest is in farming. [Full-time farmer status will be determined by a sworn affidavit by that candidate and confirmed by the delegates responsible for their election.](#) No member shall be elected as a director who is ~~employed full time in an occupation other than farming or who is~~ in a county, state or national elective office. Directors who fail to continue to fulfill the qualifications set forth herein, at any time during their terms of office, shall cease to be directors forthwith and automatically cause a vacancy in such directorships. (As amended November 9, 1951; November 8, 1967; November 19, 1968; November 9, 1972; December 14, 1973; December 2, 1981; and December 2, 2014.)

Section 2. Term of Office.

~~At the 2018 annual meeting of the association, following the adoption of these amended bylaws, the directors at large to be elected to fill the office of those whose terms expire at~~

~~said meeting shall be elected for a term of one (1) year only, and directors representing the even numbered districts shall be elected for terms of two (2) years.~~

~~At the 2019 annual meeting of the association, two directors at large shall be elected for terms of two (2) years, and directors representing the odd numbered districts shall be elected for terms of two (2) years.~~

~~Thereafter at all elections of directors,~~ The directors shall be elected for a term of two (2) years each, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

The directors nominated by the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee and the Michigan Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. (As amended November 8, 1956; November 8, 1967; November 30, 1978; and December 10, 1986, and November 28, 2018)

Section 3. Manner of Election. For the purpose of electing directors, commencing at the election to be held at the 2019 Annual Meeting, there are hereby created twelve (12) districts within the state of Michigan representing the members of this association. Said districts are arranged by county as follows:

District No. 1

Berrien
Cass
Kalamazoo
St. Joseph
Van Buren

District No. 2

Branch
Calhoun
Hillsdale
Jackson
Lenawee

District No. 3

Livingston
Macomb
Monroe
Oakland
Washtenaw
Wayne

District No. 4

Allegan
Barry

Ionia
Kent
Ottawa

District No. 5

Clinton
Eaton
Genesee
Ingham
Shiawassee

District No. 6

Huron
Lapeer
Sanilac
St. Clair
Tuscola

District No. 7

Lake
Mecosta
Montcalm
Muskegon
Newaygo
Oceana
Osceola

District No. 8

Bay
Gratiot
Isabella
Midland
Saginaw

District No. 9

Benzie
Grand Traverse
Kalkaska
Leelanau
Manistee
Mason
Missaukee
Wexford

District No. 10

Alcona
Alpena
Arenac
Clare
Gladwin
Iosco
Montmorency
Ogemaw
Oscoda
Roscommon

District No. 11

Antrim
Charlevoix
Cheboygan
Crawford
Emmet
Otsego
Presque Isle

District No. 12

All Upper Peninsula Counties:

Alger
Baraga
Chippewa
Delta
Dickinson
Gogebic
Houghton
Iron
Keweenaw
Luce
Mackinac
Marquette
Menominee
Ontonagon
Schoolcraft

Prior to November 15 during the year in which a district is to nominate a person for the position of district director on the board of directors, the presidents of the county Farm Bureau units within such district shall meet and draw up a slate of candidates for such position. This slate and any additional nominations, with appropriate biographical information, shall then be presented to the voting delegates from such district during their

caucus to select a nominee for district director at the time of the annual meeting of this corporation. One (1) district director shall be nominated by the members located in each of said districts, acting through their voting delegates. If, at any time following the adoption of these amended bylaws, any district created in section 3 of this article shall not contain at least two local county Farm Bureau units, having a combined membership of one hundred fifty (150) or more individual members, such districts shall not be entitled to nominate a district director. At any time after the qualifications of the voting delegates have been determined at any annual meeting, in accordance with parliamentary procedure, and before adjournment of such annual meeting, the voting delegates from each district shall meet and nominate the district directors for said respective districts. Immediately following the nomination of district directors as to each district, the names of nominees for district directors shall be placed in nomination by the chairman of the respective district delegations.

Directors-at-large shall be nominated by the voting delegates from the floor at the annual convention of the voting delegates.

Immediately following the election of directors of the association in even-numbered years, the secretary shall call for directors of the association who desire to be elected president to announce their candidacy to the voting delegates. In order to be elected president, a director must have so announced the director's candidacy and must have served on the association's board of directors for not less than four years preceding the director's election to the office of president. (As amended November 30, 2007.)

After the district directors and director(s)-at-large have been elected by the voting delegates, and following a recommendation by the board of directors, one director shall be named by the voting delegates as their nominee to be considered by the board of directors for election by the board of directors to the office of president.

The board of directors shall thereafter elect one of its qualified members to the office of president for a term of two years. The director elected by the board of directors as president shall automatically become an additional at-large director and shall serve in such position until his or her successor to the office of president has been named, at which time the out-going president shall be deemed to have resigned from the board of directors. The vacancy in the additional director-at-large position on the board of directors created by the resignation of the out-going president shall be automatically filled by the new president whose former position shall, in turn, be filled by the delegates from the appropriate district if he or she had been elected to the board of directors as a district director, or by the delegate body if he or she had been elected as a director-at-large. Except in the case of the president who may be from the same district as another director-at-large, no more than one director-at-large from any one district and not more than one member of the same immediate family or farming operation may be elected to the board of directors, or be serving thereon, at the same time. (As amended November 9, 1972; November 30, 1978; December 10, 1980, December 1, 1988, November 28, 2001, and

November 28, 2018)

Section 4. Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee. The Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee shall be entitled to nominate one director to serve on the board of directors of this association. Prior to the election of directors of this association, the Chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee shall be notified, and that committee, in a manner to be determined by it, shall nominate a director to represent it on the board of directors of this association, and shall certify to the secretary of this association the name of the person so named. (As amended November 8, 1956 and November 8, 1967.)

Section 5. Michigan Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee. The Michigan Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee shall be entitled to nominate one member to serve on the board of directors of this association. Such nominee shall in all cases be the chairperson of the committee unless the chairperson does not fulfill the qualifications required of directors of this association as provided in article VIII, section 1, of these bylaws, in which case the Michigan Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee shall select and nominate a person from within the committee who does meet such qualifications to represent the committee on the board of directors of this association. (As amended December 2, 1981; and December 10, 1986.)

Section 6. Vacancies. In case of a vacancy occurring in the office of a director-at-large due to death, resignation, disqualification, or otherwise, the board of directors shall fill the vacancy until the next regular annual meeting. However, if such vacancy occurs within 120 days prior to an annual meeting, the vacancy shall be filled by the delegates at the annual meeting.

No vacancy in the office of a director-at-large shall be filled by appointment or election of a person from any district from which a director-at-large, other than the president, is currently serving, or by appointment or election of a currently serving district director. (As amended December 1, 1988.)

In case of a vacancy occurring in the office of district director due to death, resignation, disqualification, or otherwise, the presidents of the county Farm Bureau units within the district shall be notified immediately and the unexpired term shall be filled at a caucus of the voting delegates from the district to the last previous annual meeting. This caucus shall meet no later than 45 days after the vacancy occurs to elect the new district director. However, if such vacancy occurs within 120 days prior to an annual meeting, the vacancy shall be filled by the prescribed election procedure at the annual meeting.

A vacancy in the office of the director designated by the Michigan Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee or the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee shall be filled by that committee.

No vacancy in the office of any director shall be filled by appointment or election of a person who is a member of the same immediate family or farming operation as is a currently serving director. (As amended November 8, 1967; December 1, 1977; December 1, 1978; December 10, 1980; and December 10, 1986.)

Section 7. Meetings. An organization meeting of the board of directors shall be held not later than 90 days after the day of adjournment of the annual meeting of the delegates of this association. Regular meetings of the board of directors shall be held every two months, at such time and place as the directors may determine. Special meetings may be held at any time upon the call of the president, secretary, or upon the request, in writing, of three (3) members of the board of directors, filed with the president. (As amended November 14, 1952.)

Section 8. Quorum. A majority of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn to another time.

Section 9. Executive Committee. The board of directors shall elect an executive committee of five (5) members from the membership of the board. Such executive committee, during the interim between meetings of the board of directors, shall have power to perform and exercise the duties conferred by law upon the board of directors. The actions of the executive committee shall be subject to the approval of the board of directors. (As amended December 12, 1997.)

Section 10. Duties. In the manner provided by law, the board of directors shall execute and carry out the policies of this association, as the same shall be determined by the voting delegates; shall be empowered to manage the affairs of the association; shall be empowered to authorize the borrowing of money and the issuance of promissory notes, bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness of the association for the repayment of borrowed money, with interest; shall be empowered to authorize the execution of mortgages on real or personal property of the association, as security for the payment of its debts and other lawful commitments, whenever in the judgment of said board of directors the general interest of the association may require the doing thereof. The board of directors shall determine all qualifications of membership applications. The board shall appoint and employ such agents and employees as may be necessary in the proper conduct of the business and affairs of the association.

Section 11. Advisory Committees. The board of directors is authorized to appoint advisory committees. The advisory committees shall have and exercise such authority as may be conferred upon them by the board of directors. Such advisory committees shall from time to time present to the board of directors recommendations on matters of concern to members and issues of importance to agriculture. (As amended December 1, 1993.)

Section 12. Other Committees. The board of directors is authorized and empowered to appoint, from time to time, such other committees as may be necessary in the conduct of the business of the association; to determine the qualifications of membership on such committees; and the duties and the authority thereof. Such committees shall have such authority only as is expressly conferred upon them by the board of directors.

Section 13. Indemnification of Officers and Directors. Each director and officer shall be indemnified by the company against any liability and/or expenses reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding instituted in which he may be made a party defendant by reason of his being or having been a director or officer of the company. Liability and/or expenses shall include the cost of reasonable settlement made with a view of avoiding cost of litigation and the payment of any judgment or decree entered in such action, suit or proceeding. The company shall not, however, indemnify such director or officer with respect to matters as to which he shall be finally adjudged in any such action, suit or proceeding to have been derelict in the performance of his duties as such officer or director, and in no event shall anything herein be so construed as to authorize the company to indemnify any such director or officer against any liability he would be subject to by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be exclusive of other rights to which any director or officer may be entitled as a matter of law. Said indemnity shall also inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such persons. (As added November 12, 1969.)

ARTICLE IX

Officers

Section 1. Election. The election of officers other than the president shall take place at the first organization meeting of the board of directors following each annual meeting of the members.

The officers of this association shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer; provided that the offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined. The president and vice-president shall be elected by the board of directors from its own membership, and shall serve for their respective terms, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. (As amended November 28, 2001.)

Section 2. Delegates to American Farm Bureau. The delegates of this association to the American Farm Bureau Federation shall be appointed by the board of directors on or before the last meeting thereof preceding any special or regular meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the term of office of the delegates of this association shall be determined by the board of directors at the time the delegates are appointed.

Section 3. President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the voting delegates and all meetings of the board of directors. He shall be an ex-officio member of all

regular and special committees appointed by the directors, and shall perform such other duties as are usual or incident to said office, and such as may be required by the board of directors.

Section 4. Vice-President. The vice-president shall, during the absence or disability of the president, perform and discharge the duties of said office, and such other duties as may be required by the board of directors.

Section 5. Secretary. The secretary shall be elected by the board of directors. He shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the voting delegates and of the board of directors. He shall perform such duties as are generally incident to this office and such other duties as may be required of him by the board of directors. The secretary shall furnish such bond, in such amount, and with such sureties as may be determined by the board of directors, the expense of which shall be paid out of the general funds of the association.

Section 6. Treasurer. The treasurer shall be elected by the board of directors, and shall safely receive, keep, deposit, and discharge all monies of the association, and all other property of the association coming into his possession, under the authority and instruction of the board of directors. He shall make reports to the board of directors and to the voting delegates in such manner and form, and at such times as shall be required or authorized by the board of directors; and shall perform such further duties as are generally incident to this office, and such duties as may be required of him by the board of directors. The treasurer shall furnish bond in such amount, and with such sureties as may be determined by the board of directors, the expense of which shall be paid out of the general fund of the association.

Section 7. Assistant Secretaries. The board of directors is authorized to appoint such assistant secretaries or assistant secretary as may from time to time by resolution, be provided. Such assistant secretary or assistant secretaries shall serve at the pleasure of the board of directors. They shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the secretary or required by the board of directors.

Section 8. Assistant Treasurer. The board of directors is authorized to appoint such assistant treasurer or assistant treasurers as may from time to time, by resolution, be provided. Such assistant treasurer or assistant treasurers shall serve at the pleasure of the board of directors. They shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the treasurer or required by the board of directors.

Section 9. Recall of Officers or Directors. The voting delegates, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote thereof, shall have the power at any regular or special meeting, duly called and held for said purpose, to remove from office any director or officer of the association. Whenever a complaint against an officer or director is filed with the president, secretary, or the voting delegates, ten (10) days written notice thereof shall be given, by mail, to such director or officer against whom the complaint has been filed, and he shall be furnished with a copy

of the complaint and notified of the date, time and place upon which a meeting of the voting delegates will be held to hear and determine the merits of such complaint. At such hearing on the complaint, the officer or director shall have the right to appear and to produce testimony and evidence to disprove said complaint. If, upon hearing, a majority of the delegates, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, find the complaint is true, they may recall said officer or director. Thereupon, the voting delegates are authorized to appoint an officer or director to succeed the one so recalled or removed.

Section 10. Board of Directors Recall of Officers. The majority of the Board of Directors may consider the removal of an officer prior to its re-organization meeting. Removal requires a 3/4 majority vote of the voting members of the Board of Directors. Whenever a complaint against an officer is filed with the Board of Directors, ten (10) days written notice thereof shall be given, by mail, to such officer against whom the complaint has been filed, and he shall be furnished with a copy of the complaint and notified of the date, time and place upon which a meeting of the Board of Directors will be held to hear and determine the merits of such complaint. If the board removes an officer, that individual is removed from the Board of Directors.

Section 11. Officers Committee. An officers committee shall be established and appointed each year by the board of directors to assist the board of directors in carrying out its policies and responsibilities, including the employment of management personnel and the coordination of the activities of the Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies, consonant with Farm Bureau policy. The officers committee shall be composed of the persons filling the positions of president, secretary/general counsel, and treasurer/chief financial officer of this corporation. (This section added December 1, 1988.) (As Amended December 12, 1997.)

ARTICLE X

Finance

Section 1. Dues. The annual dues required to be paid by members of this association shall be \$50.00 beginning September 1, 2019. Alternatively, a member may pay their dues on a more frequent basis, including monthly, quarterly, and semi-annually. These options may include terms and procedures established by the Association, including dues amounts that will, in the aggregate, exceed the \$50 annual dues, as necessary. No member shall be compelled to pay greater than \$50 per year if the member chooses to pay on an annual basis. All such dues shall include the annual dues of the American Farm Bureau Federation and an annual subscription to the Michigan Farm Bureau general membership publication, and shall be distributed between this association and the respective county Farm Bureaus as determined by the board of directors. No additional local dues may be assessed by any county Farm Bureau.

The annual dues required to be paid by collegiate members of this association shall be determined, assessed and collected by the Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter, in good standing,

at a member's place of education. Collegiate members will be collegiate members of the county Farm Bureau of their choice.

(As amended November 12, 1969; June 28, 1975; November 28, 1979; December 1, 1982; November 29, 1984; November 30, 2007, November 28, 2018, and November 29, 2018.)

Section 2. Collection. All dues paid by members shall be paid directly to the treasurer of the association, or to such other person or persons as may be designated by the board of directors.

Section 3. Disbursements. Disbursements of all monies and funds of this association shall be made only upon order or under the authority of the board of directors, for such purposes as they may designate, provided that no distribution of the property of this association shall be made until all debts and obligations have been paid.

No distribution of the assets and property of the association shall be made until the same shall have been approved by a majority vote of the members, nor unless and until the association should be dissolved and its affairs wound up in the manner provided by law. The association shall have authority, while acting in the capacity of agent, to receive and distribute funds.

Upon dissolution, the net remaining assets of this corporation shall be distributed to the Michigan county Farm Bureaus based upon their respective numbers of members in proportion to the total membership of the corporation. (Amended November 29, 1990)

Section 4. Audit. There shall be an annual audit made of the books, records, and accounts of the treasurer, and the secretary of this association, or at any other time which the board of directors, or the voting delegates may determine. Such audit shall be made by such person, firm or corporation as the board of directors, or the voting delegates, may designate. The audit report shall be on file in the office of the association, and shall be available for inspection at all reasonable times by any member of the association, who is, at the time of the inspection, in good standing as such member.

ARTICLE XI

Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Program

This association shall encourage and assist in the organization and formation of a Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Program. The purpose of the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Program is to provide opportunities for leadership development, education and to enable young farmers to be active, participating members of Michigan Farm Bureau. The board of directors of this association shall have full and direct responsibility for activating and developing the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Program and appointing a State Young Farmer Committee. The board of directors shall also have the power to appropriate and handle funds for the purpose of financing activities of the Michigan Farm Bureau

Young Farmer Committee, and to delegate to such committee the necessary powers to conduct its activities, rendering reasonable assistance to the members of the committee to foster growth and development of the program. (As amended November 8, 1967.)

ARTICLE XII

Michigan Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee

This association shall encourage and assist in the organization of the Michigan Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee which shall be responsible for developing and carrying out projects and programs for all of the members and various age groups of Michigan Farm Bureau, such projects and programs to include, but not by way of limitation, health and safety, leadership training, agriculture in the classroom, current issues, commodity promotions, and consumer education.

~~The Michigan Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee shall be composed of two persons from each of the eleven (11) Farm Bureau districts into which the state of Michigan is divided, and such committee shall become operational on September 1, 1987.~~ The board of directors of this association is authorized to appropriate and handle funds for the purpose of financing the activities of this committee; to delegate to such committee necessary powers to conduct its activities; and to render to it reasonable assistance in order to foster the growth and development of its projects and programs. (As amended December 2, 1981; and December 10, 1986.)

ARTICLE XIII

Order of Business

~~The order of business for meetings of the delegates shall be as follows:~~

- ~~1. — Call to order~~
- ~~2. — Seating of delegates~~
- ~~3. — Roll call~~
- ~~4. — Reading of minutes of previous meeting~~
- ~~5. — Appointment of committees~~
- ~~6. — President's address~~
- ~~7. — Chief operating officer's report~~
- ~~8. — Treasurer's report~~
- ~~9. — Election of directors~~
- ~~10. — Report of committees~~
- ~~11. — New business~~
- ~~12. — Adjournment~~

(As Amended December 12, 1997.)

ARTICLE XIV

Amendments

Section 1. Amendment Process. These bylaws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the voting delegates of this corporation by the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting delegates present and voting. Provided, that the proposed amendment has been recommended by the Policy Development Committee, special Bylaw Committee when appointed, the board of directors, a county Farm Bureau board of directors, or by the members of a county Farm Bureau by majority vote at the annual meeting of the county Farm Bureau; and provided further, that written notice of the proposed amendment or an abstract of the substance thereof has been given to the county Farm Bureaus at least one hundred twenty days prior to the annual or special meeting. Any other bylaw amendments proposed by approved resolution of the voting delegates shall be considered at the next annual meeting or next special meeting of the voting delegates. (As amended December 1, 1988, December 1, 1989, December 3, 1999 and December 6, 2000.)

Section 2. Review of Bylaws. The Michigan Farm Bureau bylaws shall be reviewed at least once every ten (10) years by a committee appointed by the County Presidents. The committee shall consist of a delegate from each district.

Proposed Bylaw Changes from St. Clair, Lapeer, and Huron Counties

The St. Clair, Lapeer, and Huron County Farm Bureau Board of Directors has recommended the proposed bylaw changes to the delegate floor for their consideration:

Article VIII. Board of Directors – Addition of paragraphs 5 and 6 in section 2.

Section 2. Term of Office. At the 2018 annual meeting of the association, following the adoption of these amended bylaws, the directors-at-large to be elected to fill the office of those whose terms expire at said meeting shall be elected for a term of one (1) year only, and directors representing the even-numbered districts shall be elected for terms of two (2) years.

At the 2019 annual meeting of the association, two directors-at-large shall be elected for terms of two (2) years, and directors representing the odd-numbered districts shall be elected for terms of two (2) years.

Thereafter at all elections of directors, the directors shall be elected for a term of two (2) years each, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

The directors nominated by the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee and the Michigan Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. (As amended November 8, 1956; November 8, 1967; November 30, 1978; and December 10, 1986, and November 28, 2018)

At the 2025 annual meeting of the association, a minimum of 2 director positions shall be elected to start new terms each year until all director positions have been re-elected for the start of a count of 5 terms. Order of director elections will be determined by seniority or an intent to retire commitment letter from directors.

Thereafter, at all elections of directors, the directors shall be elected for a term of two (2) years each, for a maximum of 5 consecutive terms or until their successors are elected and qualified, whichever comes first. Directors are then eligible to run again after taking a two (2) year term off the board.

Article VIII. Board of Directors – Adding language to Section 3, Paragraph 6

Section 3. Manner of Election (Paragraph 6) The board of directors shall thereafter elect one of its qualified members to the office of president for a term of two years. The director elected by the board of directors as president shall automatically become an additional at-large director and shall serve in such position until his or her 5 consecutive terms as president is up or until his or her successor to the office of president has been named, whichever comes first. At which time the out-going president shall be deemed to have resigned from the board of directors. Following a 2-year term away from the board, the outgoing president is eligible to run for an open director position on the board in either their district or in an at-large position. The vacancy in the

additional director-at-large position on the board of directors created by the resignation of the out-going president shall be automatically filled by the new president whose former position shall, in turn, be filled by the delegates from the appropriate district if he or she had been elected to the board of directors as a district director, or by the delegate body if he or she had been elected as a director-at-large. Except in the case of the president who may be from the same district as another director-at-large, no more than one director-at-large from any one district and not more than one member of the same immediate family or fanning operation may be elected to the board of directors, or be serving thereon, at the same time. (As amended November 9, 1972; November 30, 1978; December 10, 1980, December 1, 1988, November 28, 2001, and November 28, 2018)

Chief Operating Officer's Report



Hello, and welcome to Michigan Farm Bureau's 2024 Annual Meeting! As I reflect on the core theme of this year's event — **At the Table** — my first thought is one of gratitude. When I joined this organization in July, you

opened your doors, invited me in, and gave me a seat at your table. I immediately felt the warm welcome of the Farm Bureau Family.

In the past four months, I have been fortunate to spend time with many of you, attending county annuals in all 12 districts, listening to robust conversations at district cabinet meetings, visiting your farms, and often, sharing a meal together.

You made room at the table for me — a new friend, a new ear, a new voice. You've shared your stories, your families and your homes with me. One of my favorite moments was sitting next to a child who was sitting on his mother's lap, playing with his toy truck on the table next to a draft of proposed bylaw changes being discussed by those assembled around the table. Perhaps one day he'll help lead such a discussion.

You've been authentic, **genuine** in sharing the excitement, the frustrations and the deep sense of responsibility that you feel each day.

As I've dug into my new role in this organization, your perspectives weave throughout all that I've experienced — all that I've heard, seen, touched, and yes — in some cases — smelled! I have tremendous respect and admiration for each of you. Thank you, for welcoming me to your Farm Bureau table.

It's been said **the fondest memories are made gathered around the table**. From loud, chaotic family gatherings, to smaller, quieter dinners with loved ones, time around the table is often marked by large life milestones — weddings, birthdays, holidays — and the simpler moments — a weekday dinner, a shared pot of coffee — that together, build a lifetime of memories.

Similarly, our Farm Bureau mission, vision and values have brought us to the table for more

than 100 years. The history, the traditions, the chapters of the Farm Bureau story — passed from generation to generation — are something to truly be proud of.

Like every family, we've had our challenging moments. But these are the moments that define us.

A wise person once noted that **a strong family has well-worn seats at the dinner table**. When we commit to sit at the Farm Bureau table to talk through the tough stuff, to hear another's perspective, to provide support, guidance, and optimism to navigate the road ahead — we sit in a seat that's been worn by generations before us and will be warmed by generations that follow.

This past year you've gathered at many Farm Bureau tables — dining tables, board tables, picnic tables, folding tables — for committee meetings, board meetings, special events and other activities.

From your county and district tables to policy development discussions, and even electing those who will help lead our organization and champion your collective voices through the policy development process, you have met to talk through the challenges AND opportunities facing Michigan agriculture.

The last quotable phrase I'll share is one of encouragement; **Build a bigger table, not a higher fence**. As we gather at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting table this year, let's consider what we each bring to the table.

More importantly, let's consider who might be missing from our Farm Bureau table. Reflect for just a moment, with gratitude, the person who first invited you to sit. Then think about who you could invite to join us at this expanding table.

How do we remain a vital, trusted hub and voice of all things agriculture for our great state despite increasing challenges coming from so many directions? In the months and years ahead, our Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies will continue to work tirelessly to invite MORE friends — more family — more partners — more voices — to sit at our organization's table.

(continued)

Just like what happens in so many homes over the holidays, we'll add a leaf or two to expand the table, and haul more chairs up, making more room for everyone to sit at the table.

In fact, you should be proud of achieving statewide membership target for the fifth year in a row with 42,086 regular members this past year. As a result, we added three more delegates to this year's Annual Meeting, meaning 420 members will participate in the Farm Bureau Policy Development process!

As a general farm organization with deep roots, there's a place for everyone — smaller farms to large producers, first generation to multi-generation, representing the vastness and diversity of commodities that Michigan is known for.

When you take the time to leave your own homes and farms, and travel to sit at the table with your Michigan Farm Bureau Family and Friends, you do so with passion and excitement for the work our

organization has done for more than a century and will continue to do.

You sit with others who share your dedication and belief in what we can do, together, for the NEXT century. As your MFB staff team, we sit with you at the table. We are ready to help set the table, serve the meal, and roll up our sleeves to do the dishes, eagerly anticipating the next opportunity we will have to gather around a table...because that's what family does.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Reynaert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Reynaert, COO, Michigan Farm Bureau

➤ Visit michfb.com/annual-meeting to watch the video report.

Chief Executive Officer's Report



It's a pleasure to be with you all again at the 105th Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

Your insurance companies have literally weathered the storms of 2023 and, thus far, in 2024. We persevered

in one of most difficult insurance markets we've seen in decades. Many insurance companies have restricted writing business, prohibited certain types and sizes of farms, and almost every insurance company has been challenged by rating agencies due to poor financial results from storms, inflation, lawsuit abuse, and labor shortages. Be assured **Farm Bureau continues** to be a premier insurance company with sound financial strength, coupled with an agency force and a dedicated home office team that still believes high touch service is as important as high tech.

Both Farm Bureau Mutual and General Insurance Company of Michigan have been reaffirmed at an A- (Excellent) rating with a **stable outlook** by the A.M. Best Company. The three Life Insurance Companies; Farm Bureau Life Insurance, Leaders Life and Cincinnati Equitable Life were reaffirmed at an A (Excellent) rating with a **stable outlook**. Despite a 60% increase in AM Best downgrades this past year, your Companies withstood the hard market with no changes in its ratings. We also earned several national and statewide accolades:

- Our Life Company was named to Ward's Top 50, a national list of the top 50 performing insurance companies in the U.S. This is the 29th time in 34-years, we've been part of this prestigious group.
- Your Property/Casualty Insurance Company was recognized again with a "superior rating" for our Claims customer experience.
- Seven of the last eight years, the *Detroit Free Press* has named Farm Bureau Insurance one of the top workplaces in the state of Michigan.

The balance sheets of the Life and Property/Casualty Insurance Companies continue to be well capitalized. The Life Insurance Company capital & surplus is at \$583 million, up \$39 million and positioned solidly to back the \$26 billion of life insurance in force. The Property/Casualty Companies rebounded in 2024 with capital surplus of \$761 million, a \$36 million increase, after decreasing \$63 million in 2023 to pay a record number of storm losses.

The Farm Bureau Life Company once again grew and now has \$26 billion of life insurance in force. We introduced two exciting new life products — Premier Whole Life and a Multi-Year Guaranteed Annuity Product (MYGA). I am excited about the new annuity product. It will pay interest rates not seen in the last 15 years!

In terms of the Property/Casualty Companies, 2024 has been a year of transition. While it was a much better weather year than 2023, we did experience severe storms, like the F3 tornado in May that impacted the Kalamazoo area as well as two storms that hit the Muskegon & Ludington communities in August. We continued to be there on your worst day.

Inflation, although leveling off, has driven the cost of some claims up 40%. Our reaction to this has been to offer you choice to control premium changes. We've expanded deductible choices, coverage options on roofs, and added risk management services to temper premium increases that are slowly catching up to inflation. We continue to listen to our members, agents, and even met with our state insurance commissioner to guide the companies in this hard market.

I'm proud to say over the last five years, because of our continued commitment and focus on servicing you, the farmer, we've grown our market share from 52% to 59% of the farm premium in our state.

(continued)

However, with the abnormally dry harvest conditions this year, we saw more combine fires than ever before. At last count, 20 combine fire losses! We ask that you work with our Risk Management team to make sure you're blowing off chaff at the end of the day, parking equipment near roadways for the night in case of fire, and monitoring equipment for an hour after shut-down, in case of a hot bearing or hot gearbox. Our Farm team is discussing ways to make for a safer harvest in 2025!

As the agriculture industry continues to grow larger operations that are more diversified, the intersection of Farm/Commercial insurance is closer than ever before. In 2024, we continued expanding. Commercial premium growth is 22.6% to \$21.9 million in premium as of August. Likewise, your Crop Insurance team has grown our policy count for the 7th consecutive year, taking care of more than 1,500 farmers across the state. Today, we insure \$22 million in crop insurance, with a goal of \$25 million by 2025.

In terms of Farmowners, there are three new product offerings I want to highlight. In 2024, we introduced replacement cost for farm machinery and coverage for insured owned drones. Lastly, I'd like to introduce Ting. Ting is a plug-in sensor that delivers real-time alerts to homeowners to identify electrical hazards to avoid catastrophic fire damage. On a pilot basis, Farm Bureau will

provide Ting smart sensors to 10,000 homes with three years of fire prevention service at no cost to the homeowners.

Congratulations to county Farm Bureaus as well as our agency field force, whose combined efforts led to a 5th consecutive year of membership growth across regular and associate memberships! Our agents are working hard and achieving growth. People see the value of being a member! There's no question that the family of companies is working closer together than ever before, from home office to county Farm Bureaus, to agent offices. Together, we'll go further, faster.

I want to end with a sincere thank you and revered commitment to continue operating in your best interest. Every Farm Bureau agent and employee across all 83 counties stands ready, willing, and able to deliver our promises to you, the same way farmers have come to expect, since 1949. Thank you again for your business and partnership.

We're committed to delivering for you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Simon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Simon, CEO, Farm Bureau Insurance

➤ Visit michfb.com/annual-meeting to watch the video report.

Treasurer's Report



Members of Michigan Farm Bureau:

Michigan Farm Bureau's ("MFB") balance sheet remains very strong with growth in membership and financial support from its affiliates.

Total assets as of August 31, 2024 were over, \$21,025,000 a decrease from its prior year end balance of over \$22,475,000 on December 31, 2023. MFB's three major asset categories are 'cash and cash equivalents', investments and 'other long-term assets'. 'Cash and cash equivalents' were \$5,358,000, while total investments with a value of \$8,456,000 consist primarily of bonds. 'Other long-term assets' relate largely to employee paid benefits to be amortized over the next six years.

The three major components of the Liabilities section of the balance sheet as of August 31, 2024 are accounts payable of \$1,359,000, deferred membership dues of \$2,506,000 and long-term liabilities of nearly \$3,404,000. Accounts payable include daily operating payables and the current portion of long-term debt. Deferred membership dues represent dues already collected, but for which the benefits from programs, activities and membership services are to be provided over the remaining unexpired period of the annual membership. Long-term debt reflects an outstanding note with a 1.79% interest rate amortizing over the next five years. When undesignated reserves and deferred membership dues are added together, MFB has nearly \$14.6 million in reserve.

MFB primarily funds its activities with membership dues revenue, a grant from the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture ("MFA"), investment income and program fees. Through August 31, 2024, total revenues are nearly \$7,618,000. The combined program and general operating expenses through August 31 are nearly \$7,108,000. Included in the program activity were net expenditures of \$163,000 for core program activities through August 2024. The State Annual event is the largest core program event with a projected net annual expense of \$443,000. Public Policy, Field Operations, and Center for Marketing

& Media comprise the remaining program activities. Year-to-date net income is \$510,000. Combining the year-to-date net equity decrease in our affiliate MFB, Inc. of \$603,000 and the net increase of MFB yields a combined net equity decrease of nearly \$93,000. MFB has sufficient reserves to meet its near-term operating needs.

The Board and management continue to monitor and update MFB's long-range financing plan. This effort is to ensure that MFB can continue to effectively carry out its mission to represent and enhance the interests of our members.

The Board of Directors continues to follow a long-range financing plan for Michigan Farm Bureau. In 2024, the funding plan is expected to total over \$8.1 million from Farm Bureau Life, FB Partners Group, Farm Bureau Mutual and Farm Bureau General. It is planned that a significant share of this funding will be charitable contributions of appreciated stock held by the insurance affiliates. This tax strategy allows the insurance affiliates to deduct the market value of the contribution and avoid paying capital gains tax on the realized gain.

An independent MFB audit report containing financial statements and related footnotes for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2023 and 2022 is available upon request.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this report, your Farm Bureau continues to have a strong balance sheet and with continued membership growth and ongoing support from our affiliate companies, we will navigate increased expenses for member events and personnel through management's fiscal responsibility. Thank you for all you do as volunteers and your efforts to make our Farm Bureau the strongest and member-centric as it can be for Michigan agriculture.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. L. Nugent', written in a cursive style.

Thomas L. Nugent, Treasurer, Michigan Farm Bureau

➤ Visit michfb.com/annual-meeting to watch the video report. The video slides are included on the following pages.

BALANCE SHEET

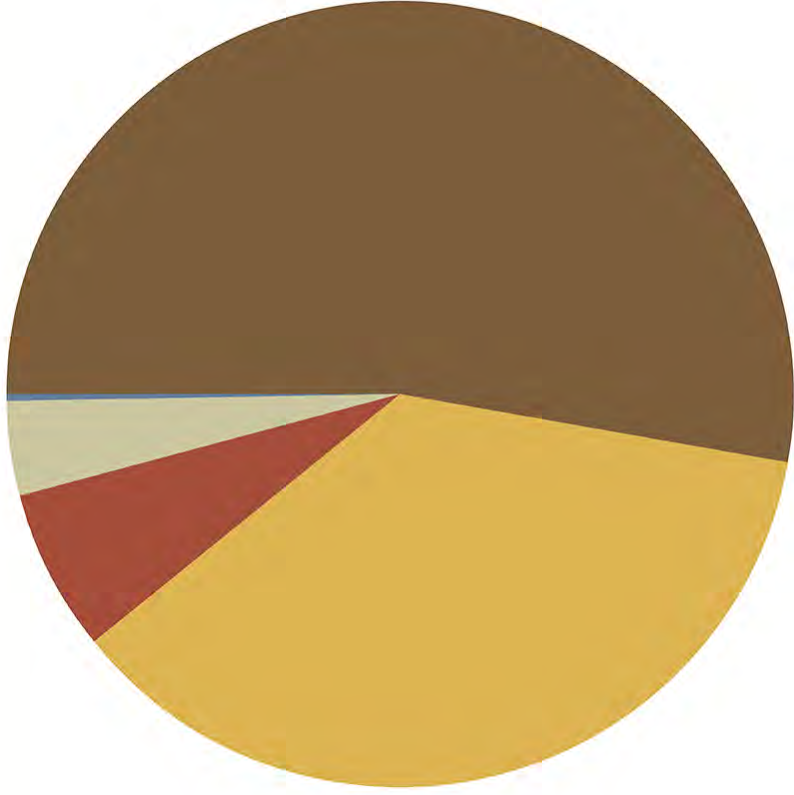
	August 2024 (unaudited)	December 2023 (audited)	Increase/ (Decrease)
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$5,358,042	\$6,177,072	\$(819,030)
Short-Term Investments	5,953,996	5,903,664	50,332
Accounts Receivable	796,160	697,403	98,757
Prepaid Expenses	950,539	1,166,952	(216,413)
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	13,058,737	13,945,091	(886,354)
OTHER LONG TERM ASSETS	3,214,346	3,810,802	(596,456)
INVESTMENTS			
Long-Term Investments	2,501,841	2,418,783	83,058
Net Investments in Affiliates	2,037,590	2,037,590	0
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	4,539,431	4,456,373	83,058
FIXED ASSETS	213,302	262,824	(49,522)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$21,025,816	\$22,475,090	\$(1,449,274)
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	\$1,358,881	\$2,399,270	\$(1,040,389)
CFB Dues Pool Payment	612,846	16,276	596,570
American Farm Bureau Dues	69,705	328,035	(258,330)
Deferred Membership Dues	2,506,315	2,437,382	68,933
Accrued Payroll & Related	212,919	949,035	(736,116)
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	4,760,666	6,129,998	(1,369,332)
LONG TERM LIABILITIES	3,403,971	3,993,772	(589,801)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	8,164,637	10,123,770	(1,959,133)
EQUITY			
Board Designated:			
Young Farmer Trust Fund	524,942	489,503	35,439
Legal Defense Fund	272,306	261,100	11,206
Undesignated:			
Beginning of Year	11,554,072	11,253,989	300,083
Net Income (Loss)	509,859	346,728	163,131
TOTAL EQUITY	12,861,179	12,351,320	509,859
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$21,025,816	\$22,475,090	\$(1,449,274)

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE

For the Eight Months ended August 31, 2024

	Budget 2024	Year to Date Actual (unaudited)	Year to Date Budget
REVENUE			
Membership Dues	\$5,595,846	\$4,081,804	\$3,888,526
Deferred Membership Dues	(44,016)	(68,933)	(17,197)
Core Program Dues	418,194	300,558	290,544
Legal Defense Fund Contributions	10,936	6,243	5,468
MI Foundation for Ag Grant	7,056,286	2,779,375	3,051,719
Investment Income	489,928	518,559	310,246
TOTAL REVENUE	13,527,174	7,617,606	7,529,306
PROGRAM EXPENSES			
Core Programs	1,004,928	162,986	280,857
Public Policy & Commodity Division	3,147,717	1,856,096	2,047,129
Field Operations Division (Includes CELD)	4,771,373	3,027,820	3,240,578
Center for Marketing & Media	1,367,368	240,935	271,221
Legal Defense Fund	25,000	15,000	16,666
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	10,316,386	5,302,837	5,856,451
BOARD & MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSES			
Management & General Expense	2,737,637	1,643,563	1,937,035
Board of Directors Expense	229,929	161,347	152,638
TOTAL BOARD & MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSE	2,967,566	1,804,910	2,089,673
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$243,222	\$509,859	\$(416,818)
MFB INC NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$(450,102)	\$(602,699)	\$(725,136)
MFA NET INCOME (LOSS) (EXCL. ACF)	\$63,366	\$2,089,100	\$1,586,849
COMBINED CHANGE IN NET EQUITY	\$(143,514)	\$1,996,260	\$444,895

MFB REVENUE THROUGH AUGUST 2024*



DUES:
\$4,081,804 (53.1%)

GRANT:
\$2,779,375 (36.2%)

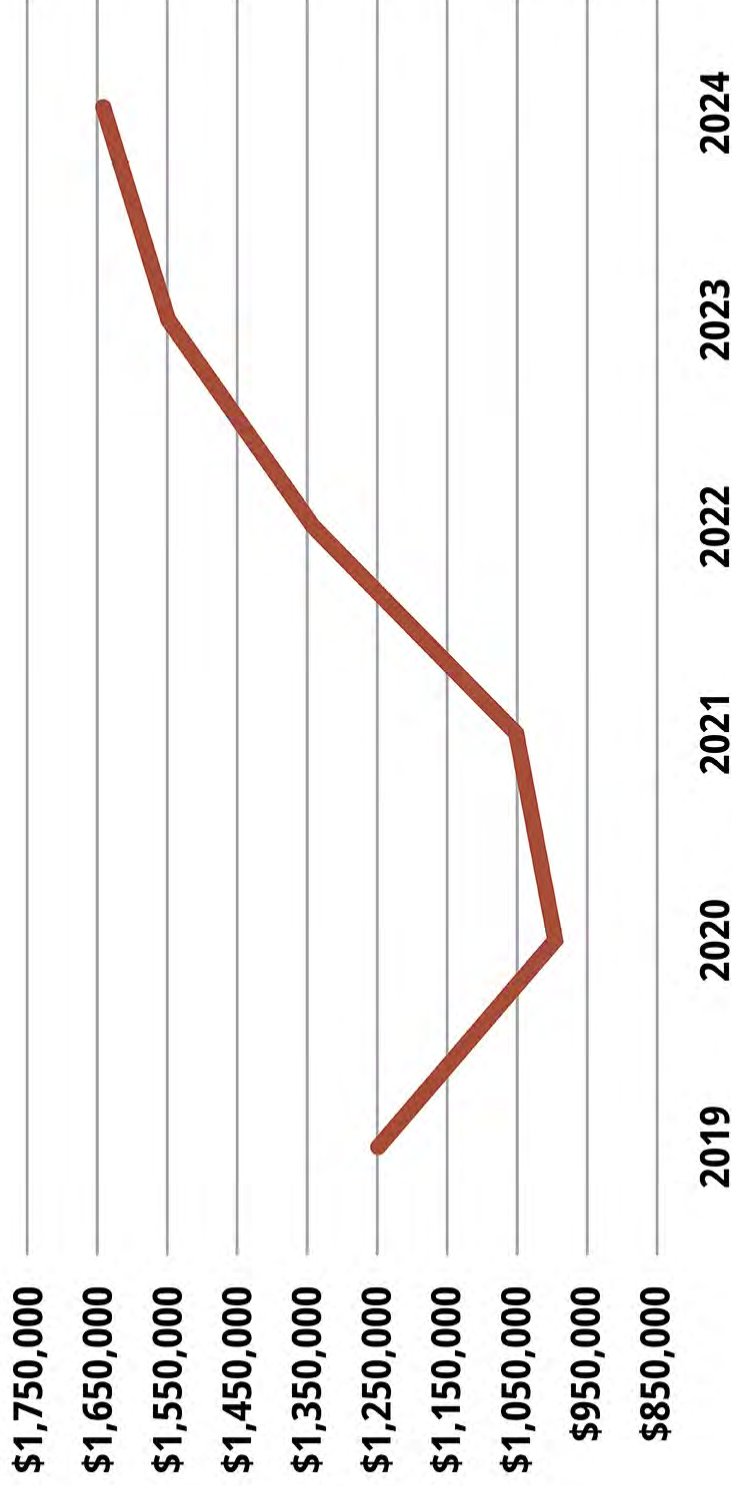
INVESTMENT:
\$518,559 (6.7%)

CORE PROGRAM REVENUE:
\$300,558 (3.9%)

OTHER:
\$6,243 (0.1%)

*Unaudited

TOTAL CORE PROGRAM EXPENSE



MFB FINANCING PLAN

Farm Bureau Insurance	\$5.25 Million
FB Partners	\$1.5 Million
Other Sponsorship	\$1.36 Million
TOTAL	\$8.11 Million

Parliamentary Procedure Quick Tips

Consideration of a Motion

- Members can debate the motion.
- Before speaking in debate, members must be recognized by the chair.
- Members also need to provide their name and county before starting discussion.
- Debate must be confined to the motion.
- Debate can be closed only by a 2/3 vote of the delegate body.

How a Motion is Brought Before the Delegate Body

(Note: Nothing goes to discussion without a motion being on the floor. All motions and discussion should be directed toward the chair.)

- The member makes the motion: *I move that* or *I move to...*
- Another member seconds the motion: *I second the motion* or *I second it* or *second*.

Amending a Motion

If you want to change (amend) a motion during discussion.

- After recognition: *Mr. Chairman, I move to amend the motion by adding/deleting/replacing the following words...*
- All amendments require a "second" from another delegate, discussion, and then a vote of the delegates.
- After it is adopted/defeated, the delegates will return to the discussion of the proposed policy, either amended or unamended.
- MFB Annual Meeting rules require the following:
 - ✓ Amendments of less than 5 words can be offered from the floor.
 - ✓ Amendments of more than 5 words must be submitted in writing on Policy Amendment forms, before making the motion to amend.
 - ✓ Long amendments that cannot be viewed in their entirety on-screen must be provided in writing to all delegates and electronically to staff.

Refer to Committee

If you feel that an idea or proposal being discussed needs more study and investigation.

- After recognition: *Mr. Chairman, I move that the question be referred to a committee made up of members...*

Motion to Lay on the Table (aka "Table the Motion")

To postpone a vote or to temporarily stop discussion of a pending motion.

- After recognition: *Mr. Chairman, I move to table the motion until...*

Postpone Definitely

If you want the membership to have more time to consider a motion being discussed and want to postpone it to a definite time or day, or for further consideration.

- After recognition: *Mr. Chairman, I move to postpone the question until...*

Postpone Indefinitely

If you are against a motion and want to learn who is for and who is against the motion.

- After recognition: *Mr. Chairman, I move to postpone the motion indefinitely.*

Previous Question

If you think the discussion has gone on for too long and want to stop discussion and vote.

- After recognition: *Mr. Chairman, I move (or call) the previous question.*

Limit Debate

If the discussion is getting long, but you want to allow time for consideration of the question.

- After recognition: *Mr. Chairman, I move to limit discussion to two minutes per speaker.*

Motion for Reconsideration:

A delegate may move to reconsider a prior decision. However, only delegates who voted in the majority of the prior decision can make this motion.

- After recognition: *Mr. Chairman, I move to reconsider...*

Suspending the Rules

If, for example, it becomes obvious that an item you are interested in will not come up before adjournment or you wish to extend the allotted debate time.

- After recognition: *Mr. Chairman, I move to suspend the rules to...*

Point of Order

If you feel that the meeting is not following proper rules.

- Without recognition: *I rise to a point of order* or *Point of order.*

Point of Information

You are wondering about some of the facts under discussion, such as the balance in the treasury when expenditures are being discussed.

- Without recognition: *Point of information.*

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

If you are confused about some of the parliamentary rules.

- Without recognition: *Point of parliamentary inquiry.*

Appeal from the Decision of the Chair

If you disagree with the vote decision of the chairman.

- Without recognition: *I appeal from the decision of the chair.*

2024 MFB Annual Meeting – Delegate Seating

Stage Area

A

B

C

Livingston 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Monroe 2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Huron 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Lapeer 2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Antrim 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Charlevoix 2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Cheboygan 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Emmet 4 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Livingston 2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Monroe 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Huron 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Lapeer 4 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Otsego 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Presque Isle 4 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Benzie-Manistee 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Mason 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Macomb 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Oakland 4 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Wayne 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Sanilac 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	St. Clair 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Missaukee 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	NW Michigan 4 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	
Macomb 4 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 X	Oakland 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Washtenaw 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	MIC 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Sanilac 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	St. Clair 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Tuscola 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	MIC 4 X 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Clare 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Washtenaw 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Van Buren 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Tuscola 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Calhoun 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Lenawee 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		
Gladwin 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Washtenaw 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Van Buren 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Tuscola 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Calhoun 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Lenawee 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		
Huron Shores 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Ogemaw 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Arenac 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Berrien 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Kalamazoo 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Hillsdale 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Jackson 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	
Iosco 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Shiawassee 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Berrien 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Cass 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Kalamazoo 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Ionia 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Hillsdale 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Jackson 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Eaton 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Shiawassee 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	St. Joseph 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Cass 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Newaygo 13 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Ionia 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Allegan 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	
Eaton 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Clinton 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	St. Joseph 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Muskegon 13 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Mecosta 14 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Ionia 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Allegan 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	
Ingham 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 X	Clinton 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	MIC 13 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Bay 14 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Oceana 15 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Montcalm 16 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	MIC 11 X 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Kent 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Ingham 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Genesee 13 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Bay 14 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Midland 15 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Osceola 16 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Montcalm 17 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Barry 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Kent 13 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Iron Range 13 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Menominee 14 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Genesee 15 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Gratiot 16 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Isabella 17 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Saginaw 18 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Barry 13 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Ottawa 14 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Hiawathaland 14 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Chippewa 15 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Copper Country 16 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Gratiot 17 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Isabella 18 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Saginaw 19 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Ottawa 14 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	
Hiawathaland 15 1 2 3 4 5	Mac-Luce Schoolcraft						

Lansing

LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR



February 25, 2025 in Lansing

Michigan Farm Bureau's premier state-level annual advocacy event

Conversations between county Farm Bureau members and state lawmakers are critical as ever. Attend to hear important updates on legislative issues impacting farms, agribusinesses, and rural communities.



INFLUENCE. ACTION. IMPACT.



WASHINGTON

LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

**March 25-27, 2025
in Washington, D.C.**

*Experience grassroots advocacy
in the nation's capitol*

Grassroots advocacy happens at home... and on the road. This marquee event of Michigan Farm Bureau's advocacy efforts brings dozens of members directly to Washington lawmakers and regulators.