



**MONROE COUNTY  
FARM BUREAU®**

# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

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## What We Do

Monroe County Farm Bureau's Mission is to serve and support the Monroe County agricultural community by protecting and advancing agricultural interests with our members and the public.

## Who We Are

We are the largest general farming organization in the county. Monroe County Farm Bureau members are volunteers who have a passion for agriculture. We are farmers, landowners, veterinarians, ag educators, ag industry professionals and more!

Our local programming is directed by our volunteer board of directors:

- **President:** Sarah Mathe
- **Vice-President:** Brad LaVoy
- **Third Member:** Matt LaVoy
- Roger Bezek
- Jaye Biniecki - NEW
- Dayton Darling
- Richard Dubke
- Chris Galbraith - NEW
- Aaron Setzler
- Ron Stadler
- Jennie Stanger
- Holly Thompson

Board members are elected each year at our county annual meeting in September.

## Membership by the Numbers

- We represent **1,098** farming families.
- **142** Young Farmer (18 to 35-year-old) members belong to the organization.
- One of the youngest boards ever with **half the members under 40.**

## 2024 Priorities

- Growing our Young Farmer program by engaging more youths and involving them in leadership opportunities such as statewide conferences as well as social activities.
- Communicating with our members and beyond via Facebook posts, a newsletter, strategic emails, and postcards.
- Advocating on behalf of agriculture with legislators by arranging discussion meetings with them and local farmers, and by inviting them to FB meetings and events.

## Reasons to Connect

- Partner on an event or project benefitting farmers.
- Discuss a local issue impacting agriculture/farmers.
- Express interest in attending a statewide or local Farm Bureau event or meeting.

## President's Report

I would like to thank all the Board Members for their hard work and dedication this year to the Monroe County Farm Bureau. The Board has worked hard this year to plan new events for our members and events to help educate the public. We were able to bring the Farm Science Lab to three schools this year, and to send eighty-eight FARM crates into classrooms to educate students about the impacts of agriculture in their daily lives.

These programs and events couldn't get off the ground without our amazing support staff: Anna Sahloff, our County Administrative Manager; Cindy Reiter, our Administrative Assistant; and Hannah Meyers, our Regional Manager. These ladies go above and beyond every day for our organization.

*Sarah Mathe, County Board President*

## Our Impact



**510**

Pounds of food donated to local hunger relief efforts.



**4,465**

Number of students reached by agricultural literacy efforts.



**172**

Number of legislative contacts made by members on issues important to agriculture.



**\$13,200**

Dollars provided to sponsor local organizations or community events.



**37**

Number of members who participated in Michigan Farm Bureau statewide or national programming or events.



**\$2,250**

Dollars provided in scholarships to local students.

*"Monroe MSU Extension is thrilled to have Monroe County Farm Bureau as a critical partner in putting on such an amazing event as Ag Awareness Day for over 1,200 school children, educating them about various aspects of agriculture."*

**Chelsea Butler, MSU Extension 4-H Educator**

*"I think there is great value in the opportunities to connect with my legislators face to face. The discussions and questions exchanged were very helpful in showing their attitudes and priorities as well as ours."*

**John Stanger, farmer member**

## LOCAL BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

One local benefit Farm Bureau provides Monroe County residents is the Farm Bureau concession building. During fair, besides providing family friendly prices on food and drinks, convenient for 4-H exhibitors and show audiences, it is a cool, clean, comfortable place to take a break and chat with other farm people. Also at the fair, Monroe County Farm Bureau supports the livestock and small animal auctions to help exhibitors profit from their efforts, especially those from members' families.

For a full list of statewide member savings, visit [michfb.com/savings](http://michfb.com/savings).

## Become a Member

Interested in being a Farm Bureau member? If you are involved in agriculture or want to help support farmers in your community, contact the Monroe County Farm Bureau office or use the QR code to learn more!

