



**KENT COUNTY
FARM BUREAU®**

2024 IMPACT REPORT

What We Do

Kent County Farm Bureau is an agricultural organization whose mission is to proactively secure the future of agriculture through promotion, community enhancement, and public education.

Who We Are

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

Local programming is directed by our volunteer board of directors:

- **President:** Bruce Klamer
- **VP:** Bryan Heffron
- **3rd Member:** Carlton Blough
- Allan Robinette, Noah Roth – Young Farmer Co-Chairs
- Annie Link – Promotion & Education Chair
- Laurie Pant
- Aaron Phelps
- Ryan Alt
- Mark Richmond
- Nicole Zaagman
- John Schut

Board members are elected each year at our County Annual Meeting in September.

Membership by the Numbers

- We represent over **1,080** farming families.
- **155** member families participated in programming throughout the year.
- **175** Young Farmer (18–35-year-old) members belong to the organization.

2024-2025 Priorities

- Growing our Young Farmer program by recruiting new members to send to leadership and networking conferences.
- Encouraging young people in ag by providing scholarships, buying their animals at the Youth Fair, and awarding grants to educational programs.
- Hosting our first Safety Day Camp—spreading farm safety practices through the children.
- Continuing to work with community partners to serve our members and educate our community about the value of agriculture in Kent County by:
 - sponsoring Rapid River Farm activities at the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum
 - supporting the Kent County Youth Fair through our 3-year \$750,000 matching grant that enabled them to raise over \$2 million for Raising Barns Building Youth so far
 - working with Wilbur-Ellis to offer free ag tire recycling
 - promoting member direct-to-consumer operations, as well as FFA, 4-H, Kent Conservation District, and MIWorks events
- Advocating on behalf of agriculture with legislators—local, state, and national.

President's Report

Last year, we met all our membership goals (members involved, Young Farmers involved, new member growth) for the first time in several years, which tells me we're doing a better job of providing value for you. But there's always room to grow!

- You told your farm story at the Legislative Breakfast in April. A record number of members, legislators, and partner organizations attended, and many of them stayed after to continue good conversations.
- You recycled over 700 agricultural tires at our recycling event in August—and we're going to do it again in 2025. Scour the corners of your property and look for an email this summer!
- We developed an engaging agricultural career presentation that members could give in middle school and high school classrooms. Find it in the Resources section of michfb.com/kent.
- We presented \$12,175 in grants to the Lowell and Sparta FFA programs.

Bruce Klamer, President, Kent County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Our Impact



2,500

Dollars provided in scholarships to local students.



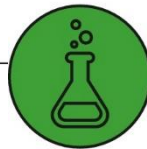
35

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



1,230

Number of local students and teachers provided FARM Crate lessons.



1,250

Number of local students and teachers visited by the FARM Science Lab or Van.



263,000

Dollars provided to sponsor local organizations or community events.



22

Number of elected officials reached through local events.



Visit the county's website and Facebook page to stay up to date on events and activities:

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)