



**MICHIGAN'S VOICE OF AGRICULTURE
IS STRONGER WITH YOU!**



Since 1919, Michigan Farm Bureau has grown to be one of the state's strongest lobbying organizations, with affiliated services and member benefits that include access to our own highly respected insurance company Farm Bureau Insurance; serving more than 200,000 members. Each of our 65 county Farm Bureau organizations continue to be managed by an elected board of directors comprised solely of farmers.

The strength of the organization comes from the county Farm Bureaus through thousands of volunteer leaders:

- planning social outings
- educational workshops
- political action and community forums
- encouraging agricultural education in public schools
- writing policy that guides the organization's lobbying efforts
- emphasizing the economic importance of agriculture

There is always a need for the enthusiastic member, as an out-in-front leader or a behind-the-scenes doer. There is great satisfaction in working hand-in-hand with friends and neighbors and those who produce our food and fiber, while supporting the common cause of Michigan agricultural products and services.

Your involvement matters!



"Joining Farm Bureau gives me the chance to have direct contact and a real relationship with legislators. Farm Bureau helps me communicate my issues with them, and that's very important if we want to hold our ground or even score some points for our industry and our livelihoods. Farm Bureau gives us input into regulations that affect us. It gives us a seat at the table, and that has real value. Besides that, it's fun to talk about the issues with other farmers who are in the same game. And it's reassuring to know people who are going through the same things we are, and to talk with them."

- Brian Preston, dairy and hog farmer, Branch County

WHAT WE DO

Help

- Give back to your neighbors through events and fundraisers to benefit local food banks
- Tell the story of how farmers care for their land, animals and natural resources in your community
- Raise awareness about food production and the people who produce it
- Recognize opportunities, messages and channels to tell your agriculture story in a way that resonates with consumers and neighbors
- Be a voice for agriculture by advocating for legislation that tempers the regulatory climate

Learn

- Develop leadership skills and experience to better manage your business, employees, colleagues/peers and much more
- Stay current on key issues and challenges facing agriculture
- Access a breadth of resources and toolkits to enhance your communication skills regarding modern agriculture with consumers and the general public

Meet

- Network with people who share your interests, passions and concerns
- Interact with leaders and professionals from every sector of agriculture
- Reward and highlight accomplishments and initiatives to promote farm outreach and education
- Connect with experts, industry leaders and elected officials
- As a member, you have access to some of the leading experts in Michigan agriculture. Michigan Farm Bureau staff are here to help you find the solutions and answers on issues affecting your operation

Learn more about these events at michfb.com



The Young Farmer program identifies new Farm Bureau and agricultural leaders. And identifies and serves the needs of young farmers, ages 18-35, to assist them in their personal and professional lives.



PROMOTION & EDUCATION

Whether it's Agriculture in the Classroom lessons, a Project R.E.D. (Rural Education Day), the FARM Science Lab or county fair activities, P&E volunteers share the history of Michigan agriculture with consumers of all ages.



COLLEGIATE FARM BUREAU

The Collegiate Farm Bureau offers students the opportunity to network with peers and industry professionals, build upon career and leadership skills and develop their voices as advocates for agriculture. There are 13 Collegiate Farm Bureaus across the state.

Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process provides every regular member an opportunity to participate and voice their concerns regarding issues pertinent to the agricultural industry. The result is policy recommendations on local, state and national issues that provide direction to the organization.



CAGs played an important role in the building of MFB's grass roots. Local groups meet to visit with other members involved in agriculture and have direct, conversational exchanges regarding agricultural issues which are passed along to the county and MFB.



The Michigan Foundation for Agriculture, a 501c3, has a mission of positively contributing to the future of Michigan agriculture through leadership and educational programming.



This political action committee allows MFB members to engage in the political arena to enhance agriculture's voice. With recommendations from county Farm Bureau committees, the AgriPac committee, made up of Farm Bureau members, evaluates and endorses candidates seeking federal or state office as "Friends of Agriculture". These candidates' positions are compatible with MFB policies, regardless of party affiliation.



Tailored to Farm Bureau members between the ages of 25 and 35, ProFILE is a leadership experience for agriculture's most promising leaders. This 15-month program helps participants grow personally and professionally and improve their leadership skills.



In the era of term limits, there is a constant need for farmers to run for office. MFB's Academy for Political Leadership is designed to give county Farm Bureau members the tools they need to get involved in government, represent agriculture and positively influence the legislative process.

MFB cares about the people of our state, the future of Michigan, and giving back to our communities. Some of our annual charitable contributions and volunteerism include: Harvest for All, FFA, 4-H, Michigan Livestock Expo, U.P. State Fair and Easter Seals Michigan – AgrAbility.

Historical Accomplishments of Michigan Farm Bureau

1974

Farmland and Open Space Preservation

Commonly known as PA 116, the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program was designed to preserve farmland and open space through agreements that restrict development and provide tax incentives for participation. More than 3.3 million acres are enrolled in the program.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$37.6 million annually

1981

Right to Farm

The Right to Farm Act was designed to help protect farmers and their farms from nuisance lawsuits. At the time of its adoption, residents new to the rural environment found themselves downwind from pre-existing farms. Odor complaints, noise complaints and ecological concerns led to lawsuits, forcing many farmers into expensive and stressful litigation.

The law protects farms that meet Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs) from nuisance lawsuits. It also allows farms to expand without derailment by outside parties, provided the additions to the operation also meet the GAAMPs standards.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$77.2 million annually

1994

Proposal A

Proposal A was approved by Michigan voters to reform the state's educational finance system from one that disproportionately affected farmers because it was previously funded by property taxes.

Farmland was given new classification that allows for an exemption of up to 18 mils from school millages. The exemption protects large land producers from excessive taxation, while providing benefits to smaller agricultural producers in ensuring a lower cost in farm maintenance.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$572.2 million annually

1996

Project GREEEN

Project GREEEN—Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs—is Michigan's plant-agriculture initiative housed at Michigan State University. The program is a cooperative effort established by commodity groups and businesses in cooperation with MSU AgBioResearch, MSU Extension and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. It's designed to benefit plant-based agriculture through a focus on research and educational programs, ensuring and improving food safety, and protecting and preserving environmental quality.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$5.6 million annually

2001

Farm Vehicle License Plate

The farm plate program was designed to better reflect the seasonal use of many farm vehicles by charging registration fees that reflect only the amount of time farm vehicles are in use, as well as the distance farm vehicles travel. It also exempts farm equipment from state truck weight laws that require different fees based on weight and number of axles.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$64.2 million annually

2003

Farm Produce Insurance Authority

The Farm Produce Insurance Act was established to protect producers from losses due to lack of payment in the event of a grain dealer's financial failure. In the event of a failed grain cooperative or similar operation, farms can apply to receive a refund on lost product.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$625,000 annually (per case basis) & \$5 million over 8 cases

2004

Specialty Crop Block Grant

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program was created to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops including fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops. Funding granted through the program can be used to begin a new farm or expand an operation to meet different needs.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$1.2 million annually

2008

Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool

The Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool program was created to better reflect the seasonality of agriculture's large-quantity water withdrawals and ensure water access for farms. The program also ensures withdrawals will not adversely impact nearby water resources.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$750 million annually

2011

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) was placed into state law as an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks.

MAEAP's mission is to develop and implement a proactive environmental assurance program ensuring that farmers are engaging in cost-effective pollution prevention practices and working to comply with environmental regulations.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$89.5 million annually

2012

Agriculture Disaster Loan Program

The Agriculture Disaster Loan Origination program was established to provide state funding to help farmers secure loans in the event of crop damage caused by natural disasters.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$2.5 million annually

2014

Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture

The Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture (MAAA) was established as a partnership among the state's animal agriculture sectors and MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College of Veterinary Medicine, AgBioResearch and Extension.

The alliance funds proposals designed to enhance animal agriculture research focused on disease, feed efficiency, care, pest and predator management, wildlife impacts and potential impacts of invasive species.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$786,000 annually

2018

Sales and Use Tax Exemption

Michigan's agriculture sales and use tax exemption was affirmed and updated to prevent misinterpretation of the law by the Department of Treasury and ensure farm-related equipment and technology purchases are not subject to the taxes. The law gives farmers the ability to reinvest in their farms, so they can keep providing safe, abundant and affordable food domestically and internationally.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$293 million annually

2020

Greenhouses and Garden Centers

Michigan's greenhouses, nurseries and landscape operations were able to reopen following their closure caused by the statewide "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order. Farm Bureau members and supporters sent 56,000 messages to legislators and the governor, urging Gov. Whitmer to allow for the safe reopening of the plant-based businesses.

Value to Michigan farmers: \$700 million annually

Member Benefits & Services



FARM SAVINGS

John Deere Rewards Program

Various Discounts

Case IH Tractors & Implements

Save up to \$500

Caterpillar Equipment

Save up to \$5,000

Ford Bonus Cash

Save \$500 on new Ranger, F-150 or Super Duty

FB Payroll Services

Save time with powerful business tools

Visit payentry.com or call 855.236.3729 to learn more

Grainger Supplies

Exclusive member discounts + free shipping
on products & supplies

MORE SAVINGS

BenefitHub

Discounts on restaurants, entertainment
& more

Office Depot & Office Max

Various discounts

Detroit Zoo

Save on admission

Theme Parks

Save on admission

Cedar Point, Michigan's Adventure, Six Flags Great America,
Kings Island

Choice & Wyndham Hotels

Save up to 20%

Dunham's Sports

Save up to 10%

For more savings, visit us at michfb.com/benefits.

COMMUNICATIONS

Benefits Advisor

Associate member publication

Sent quarterly via print and email.

Michigan Farm News

Regular member publication

Sent 21 times a year via print and six days
a week via email.

Farm Gate

Regular member publication

Sent biweekly via email.

HOW TO JOIN:

Fill out the enclosed membership application and return to your local county Farm Bureau office or visit www.michfb.com and click the "Become a Member" button. To learn more about why to become a member, visit the "About" section on our website.



"Farm Bureau membership is the foundation for your voice in agriculture. Whether it be through educating the general public about agriculture, interacting and communication with our elected officials, developing our leadership skills to serve the industry, or telling agriculture's story, this membership provides access to tools to improve and amplify your voice for agriculture."

- Mandy Teachworth; beef, corn, soybean and hay farmer; Ionia County



"What Farm Bureau membership has helped me do, personally, is to give me a channel to interact more effectively with legislators and others in the political world. Farm Bureau provides expertise at the state level with a full-time staff that keeps me informed about the issues. If I was trying to do that on my own, it would be much more difficult, and might not get done at all."

- Kris Wardin, dairy farmer, Clinton County