

"John is a true ambassador for both the Gratiot County Farm Bureau and the state-level organization," his nominator wrote.

In addition to his leadership as county president, Hardman has served on his county Farm Bureau's membership, information, young farmer, and the local and state affairs committees. He has attended Michigan Farm Bureau's Lansing and Washington Legislative Seminars, and is an active member of his county's Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Action Team. Hardman lives on his home farm in North Star Township with his wife Jill and their children Brock and Ellie.

Attendance encouraged at commodity advisory committee meetings

Dates and agendas for the summer Commodity Advisory Committee meetings are being set. These meetings are imperative to our organization to help formulate policy that will shape each individual commodity industry.

Each meeting will cover current pressing issues, followed by policy review and discussion. All committee recommendations will be presented to the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors for consideration.

Full committee member participation is needed in order to have successful meetings. Please encourage committee members from your area to RSVP and attend.

The following meetings have been scheduled, and invitations have been mailed. Details on additional committee meetings will be provided as details are finalized.

- Equine: June 27, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., MSU Livestock Pavilion in Lansing
- Dairy: June 28, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., MSU Livestock Pavilion in Lansing
- Dry Bean & Sugar Beet: July 17, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Michigan Sugar Co. in Bay City
- Livestock: July 26, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., MSU Livestock Pavilion in Lansing
- Feed Grains, Oilseeds & Wheat: July 27, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Michigan Biotechnology Institute in East Lansing

Planning for Ag Conference

The 2006 Planning for Agriculture Conference will be held Aug. 29 at the Doherty Hotel in Clare. The conference is geared toward farmers, township officials and the interested public. It will focus on four major topics: planning for alternative energy, the economics of agriculture and planning, environment and planning, and working with master plans to involve agriculture.

The conference will also give attendees time to interact with one another and share their experiences with planning for agriculture in their own communities.

Conference brochures, including the registration form, were mailed this week to county presidents, county Land Use and Local Affairs Committees and the MFB Policy Development Committee. Early-bird registrations need to be postmarked by Aug. 14 for the reduced registration fee of \$35. Contact: Dennie Olson, (800) 292-2680, ext. 6550

CAG'S Speak on Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)

With MAEAP being such a hot issue in Michigan Legislature over the past few weeks, we thought it only appropriate to recap what you had to say on the topic. We asked "Knowing that all farms can become MAEAP verified, can you think of a better voluntary way to assure that environmental issues don't become a problem for most farmers? You said, by voluntarily becoming MAEAP verified farmers are showing that they are pro-active on environmental issues. For the most part you see MAEAP verification as a superior program to any permitting system. By becoming MAEAP verified, farmers head off unnecessary scrutiny.

Then we asked "If a farm has a DEQ enforceable problem and they are not MAEAP verified, what should Michigan Farm Bureau's role be? How about the County Farm Bureau?" Most of you answered, both Michigan Farm Bureau and County Farm Bureau roles remain to aid farmers in understanding regulations and remain in compliance regardless of whether the farm is MAEAP verified or not. By encouraging farmers to seek out verification prior to discovering environmental issues, MFB and County FB's are doing their part.

Lastly we asked, "What other incentives are needed for your farm to become MAEAP verified?" You told us, you would like to see involvement from MDA on environmental issues and a working relationship between DEQ and MDA. Another incentive for verification is cost sharing. There are expenses involved in becoming verified and with frivolous lawsuits, commodity surcharges low commodity prices and high gas prices, farmers just can't afford the extra burden.

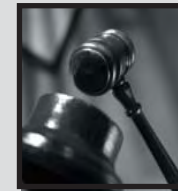
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July 2006



Policy Development: a grassroots process



As leaders in agriculture, you can have an important role in helping to produce good agricultural policy that can result in increasing your farm income. Farm Bureau's nationally recognized grassroots policy-making process has a proven track record for identifying issues and innovative ideas that, when implemented, have influenced key policy makers to enact policies to grow your business, reduce your economic and regulatory burdens, and improve your ability to make a profit.

As a Community Action Group, you are an important link in the policy development process. Please take some time during one of your upcoming meetings to discuss potential issues and submit suggested local, state or national resolutions to your county PD Committee Chairperson. The attached 2006 Probable Issues summary should help you get the discussion started. If you have questions related PD, please feel free to contact Sarah Black at 888-379-6007, ext. 2040.

Agri-PAC announces "Friends of Agriculture" for August primary election

Following are the candidates designated as "Friends of Agriculture" by the Michigan Farm Bureau AgriPac Committee. The designation constitutes an election endorsement for the August 8, 2006 Primary Election.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District

- 2 Pete Hoekstra (R-Holland)
- 3 Vern Ehlers (R-Grand Rapids)
- 4 Dave Camp (R-Midland)
- 5 Dale Kildee (D-Flint)
- 6 Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph)
- 7 Joe Schwarz (R-Battle Creek)
- 8 Mike Rogers (R-Brighton)



Membership Standings

	2006	6/28/06	
Goal	203,012	154,096	84.16%
Target	47,566	40,031	75.90%

The FB Update video is now available to view online at www.michiganfarmbureau.com/video



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For questions, comments and suggestions, please contact Mike Wenkel at ext. 3232

Show your card for cold hard ca\$h

Bring your current membership card to the Farm Bureau tent at this year's Ag Expo, July 18-20, located on the MSU campus for your chance to win cash and prizes. Members will be entered into a drawing for a chance in our cash cube prize vault. One member will be selected every hour!



A LOOK AHEAD ...

July

- Ag Expo, MSU Campus
- County Policy Development

August

- AgriPAC
- Primary Election
- Young Farmer Golf Outing

September

- Membership year begins

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (cont'd)

- District
- 9 Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills)
 - 10 Candice Miller (R-Mt. Clemens)
 - 11 Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia)

STATE SENATE

- District
- 6 Laura Toy (R-Livonia)
 - 7 Bruce Patterson (R-Canton)
 - 11 Alan Sanborn (R-Richmond)
 - 12 Mike Bishop (R-Rochester)
 - 15 Nancy Cassis (R-Novı)
 - 16 Cameron Brown (R-Sturgis)
 - 17 Randy Richardville (R-Monroe)
 - 20 Tom George (R-Portage)
 - 21 Ron Jelinek (R-Three Oaks)
 - 22 Valde Garcia (R-Howell)
 - 23 Gretchen Whitmer (D-E. Lansing)
 - 24 Patricia Birkholz (R-Saugatuck)
 - 25 Jud Gilbert (R-Algonac)
 - 26 Deborah Cherry (D-Burton)
 - 27 John Gleason (D-Flushing)
 - 28 Mark Jansen (R-Grand Rapids)
 - 29 Bill Hardiman (R-Kentwood)
 - 30 Wayne Kuipers (R-Holland)
 - 31 Jim Barcia (D-Bay City)
 - 33 Alan Cropsey (R-DeWitt)
 - 34 Gerald VanWoerkom (R-Norton Shores)
 - 35 Michelle McManus (R-Lake Leelanau)
 - 36 Tony Stamas (R-Midland)
 - 37 Jason Allen (R-Traverse City)
 - 38 Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming)

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- District
- 8 George Cushingberry (D-Detroit)
 - 19 John Pastor (R-Livonia)

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (cont'd)

- District
- 21 Phillip LaJoy (R-Canton)
 - 24 Jack Brandenburg (R-Harrison Twp.)
 - 30 Tory Rocca (R-Sterling Heights)
 - 31 Fred Miller (D-Mt. Clemens)
 - 32 Daniel Acciavatti (R-New Baltimore)
 - 34 Brenda Clack (D-Flint)
 - 35 Paul Condino (D-Southfield)
 - 36 Brian Palmer (R-Romeo)
 - 38 Craig DeRoche (R-Novı)
 - 41 Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy)
 - 43 Fran Amos (R-Waterford)
 - 44 John Stakoe (R-Highland)
 - 47 Joe Hune (R-Hamburg)
 - 49 Lee Gonzales (D-Flint)
 - 51 Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc)
 - 52 Pam Byrnes (D-Chelsea)
 - 54 Alma Wheeler Smith (D-Ypsilanti)
 - 55 Kathy Angerer (D-Dundee)
 - 56 John Manor (R-Monroe)
 - 57 Dudley Spade (D-Tipton)
 - 58 Bruce Caswell (R-Hillsdale)
 - 59 Rick Shaffer (R-Three Rivers)
 - 60 Robert Jones (D-Kalamazoo)
 - 61 Jack Hoogendyk (R-Portage)
 - 62 Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek)
 - 63 Lorence Wenke (R-Richland)
 - 64 Rick Baxter (R-Hanover)
 - 65 Leslie Mortimer (R-Horton)
 - 66 Chris Ward (R-Brighton)
 - 67 Barb Byrum (D-Onondaga)
 - 69 Mark Meadows (D-East Lansing)
 - 70 Judy Emmons (R-Sheridan)
 - 71 Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge)
 - 72 Glenn Steil Jr. (R-Cascade Twp.)
 - 73 Tom Pearce (R-Rockford)

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (cont'd)

- District
- 74 David Agema (R-Grandville)
 - 75 Tim Doyle (R-Grand Rapids)
 - 76 Michael Sak (D-Grand Rapids)
 - 77 Kevin Green (R-Wyoming)
 - 78 Neal Nitz (R-Baroda)
 - 79 John Proos (R-St. Joseph)
 - 80 Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton)
 - 81 Phillip Pavlov (R-St. Clair)
 - 82 John Stahl (R-North Branch)
 - 83 John Espinoza (D-Croswell)
 - 84 John Hunt (R-Bad Axe)
 - 85 Richard Ball (R-Laingsburg)
 - 86 Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell)
 - 87 Brian Calley (R-Portland)
 - 88 Fulton Sheen (R-Plainwell)
 - 89 Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive)
 - 90 Bill Huizenga (R-Zeeland)
 - 91 David Farhat (R-Fruitport)
 - 93 Paul Opsommer (R-DeWitt)
 - 94 Tim Kelly (R-Saginaw)
 - 96 Jeff Mayes (D-Bay City)
 - 97 Tim Moore (R-Farwell)
 - 98 John Moolenaar (R-Midland)
 - 99 Bill Caul (R-Mt. Pleasant)
 - 100 Geoff Hansen (R-Hart)
 - 101 David Palsrok (R-Manistee)
 - 102 Darwin Booher (R-Evart)

- 103 Joel Sheltroun (D-West Branch)
- 104 Howard Walker (R-Traverse City)
- 105 Kevin Elsenheimer (R-Bellaire)
- 107 Gary McDowell (D-Rudyard)
- 108 Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba)

Farm Bureau honors Gratiot member for service, dedication

Local farmer John Hardman has been recognized by Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) as the organization's Volunteer of the Month for May 2006. Hardman works a family cash crop operation east of Ithaca, raising corn, soybeans, wheat and hay.

Since being elected president of the Gratiot County Farm Bureau just last year, Hardman has thrown himself into the leadership role and motivated his fellow board members in

the process. He sets an example by getting involved in every aspect of his county-level organization, supporting the full range of committee activities and holding those volunteers accountable for their work.

"John is the type of person who others follow and respect, encouraging broad involvement and recognizing members for their service," wrote his nominator for the Volunteer of the Month award. "He was a leader at the state annual meeting and worked to provide new delegates — many of which he recruited — with a great experience and impression of MFB."

Last winter Hardman encouraged his fellow board members to strive for improvement thorough a goal-setting process, setting ambitious priorities and enriching the organization with new members and ideas. He then empowers those member volunteers through confident delegation of authority and other means of making volunteers understand the importance of their contributions.

Did you know...

- Michigan leads the nation in blueberry production, producing more than 35 percent of the blueberries eaten in the U.S. In 2004, the state produced 80 million pounds of blueberries.

- Blueberries are low in fat, are sodium free and are a good source of both fiber and vitamin C. A one cup, 80 calorie serving will give you five grams of fiber – more than most fruits and vegetables.

- In addition to their visual appeal, intense blue color, and sweet delectable flavor, blueberries are a healthy and convenient food. They require no pitting or peeling – just rinse, eat and enjoy!

- The blueberry harvest peaks in July, which is also known as National Blueberry Month.