

Farm Bureau honors Gladwin member for service, dedication



Gladwin County farmer Robert Young has been recognized by Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) as the organization's Volunteer of the Month for February 2007. Young was chosen for his exceptional work on all aspects of the new county plat book.

"Bob spent most of his summer last year running around getting advertising sponsors for our latest plat book," wrote his nominator for Volunteer of the Month honors.

Indeed Young has adopted the current and two previous Gladwin County Plat Books as his personal projects. In addition to selling advertising space he also checks the page proofs, delivers the finished products to their distribution points across the county and stores the back stock in his own home.

"Then he collects the money and brings it to the county office. It generates quite a bit of income for our county Farm Bureau," his nominator wrote. "He has clearly gone above and beyond the call."

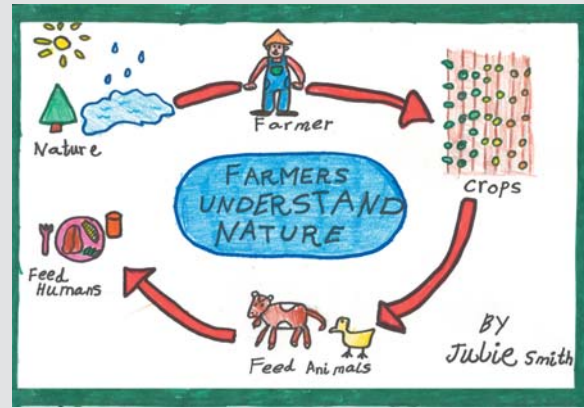
Previously Young has served on the Gladwin County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and is currently active on the local affairs committee and with the Kountry Kousins Community Action Group.

Young and his wife Elaine maintain a small farm near Gladwin, with approximately 40 head of beef cattle grazing some 200 acres of pasture land, plus a few dozen chickens and a llama.

Ag Week Poster Contest "F.U.N." Wraps Up

Julie Smith, a student at Pinckney Elementary in Livingston County submitted this year's winning poster. Julie will receive a \$100 Savings Bond from the Michigan Farm Bureau State Promotion and Education Committee. Second and third place in this year's contest, and winners of \$50 Savings bonds are Destiny Tate, a student at Bellaire Elementary School in Antrim County and Summer Bartrand of Northern Michigan Christian School in Missaukee County.

In all, over 30 counties participated in the contest with the theme, "F.U.N. – Farmers Understand Nature."



Julie Smith, Pinckney Elementary in Livingston County took first place.



Destiny Tate, Bellaire Elementary School in Antrim County took second place.



Summer Bartrand of Northern Michigan Christian School in Missaukee County took third place.

The

LOOP

April 2007



Michigan agriculture is 'Feeding the World ... Fueling the Economy'



Between the massive farm equipment parked at the entrance to the state Capitol and the appetizing sights and smells of food filling the hallways, it was hard for legislators to ignore

the state's agriculture industry on Wednesday, and that's exactly what organizers of the third-annual Ag Day at the Capitol intended.

More than 30 commodity and agribusiness organizations united Wednesday in downtown Lansing to celebrate National Ag Day and host Ag Day at the Capitol, an annual event that aims to raise the Legislature's awareness of the significant economic contributions of Michigan's agriculture industry.

Agriculture is a \$60 billion industry in Michigan. Unlike some other longtime Michigan industries which are experiencing dramatic slowdowns in economic growth and production, agriculture continues to grow with new opportunities in renewable energy and a bio-economy. With this in mind, the theme of this year's event was "Michigan Agriculture: Feeding the World ... Fueling the Economy."

"I think we were successful in deepening the Legislature's appreciation for the people in Michigan who are the first links in our food chain," said Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) President Wayne H. Wood. "We also made the point that Michigan agriculture has continued to grow in a challenged economy, and we need continued investment in our industry to sustain agriculture's promising contributions to our state's economic recovery."

Food for thought

To spread their message, nearly 100 farmers from across the state delivered to the governor and every legislator a gift basket chock full of agricultural items donated by participating organizations. Products for the approximately 150 baskets included golf tees representing Michigan's turfgrass sector, grape jelly, a corn-based travel mug, a biodiesel license plate, potato chips, a corkscrew on behalf of the state's wine industry, a hot pad from the Cattlemen's Association, and many other goodies. In addition to the gift basket, every lawmaker received a potted Easter Lily courtesy of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council.

The farmers then invited legislators to visit the first floor of the Capitol where participating

Membership Standings

2006/07 03/27/07

	201,244	109,336
Goal		
Target	47,655	34,165



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

Reminders

- CAG's have a new online resource available. The Loop, Discussion Topics and Questions and the Fun Page are all available to view and print by visiting www.michiganfarmbureau.com/cag.
- Any changes to your group can be made directly through your county administrative manager, including changes to discussion leaders. Discussion Leaders are designated to receive all materials.
- Any suggestions or ideas for future articles, discussion topics or fun pages can be e-mailed to smorris@michfb.com or sent to Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 West Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917 Attention: Sarah Morrison

April

- Deadline to qualify for Membership
- Chairman's Trip

May

- County Staff Conference
- District PD Meetings

June

- YPCS
- Membership Chairman's Trip

Continued from page 1

organizations doled out Michigan-made food and other goodies at informational displays. Lawmakers moved from booth to booth and learned about the more than 200 agricultural commodities produced in Michigan as they snacked on apple pie, string cheese, barbecue pork, bean chips and many other treats.

The MFB Promotion and Education Committee took advantage of the event to reach out to more than 560 students who toured the Capitol that day by supplying teachers of the 16 visiting classes from around the state with agricultural lesson plans they can deliver back in the classroom.

National Ag Day

In the past, Ag Day at the Capitol had been held in May, but organizers this year moved the event up two months to coincide with National Ag Day (March 21) and National Ag Week (March 18-24).

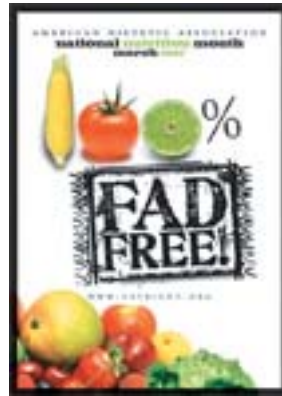
"Holding Ag Day at the Capitol on National Ag Day really brought home the message that agriculture is a big industry in Michigan, and Michigan agriculture is a big player in the national agricultural scene. Thus, supporting agriculture in Michigan is good for our state and our nation, as well as the rest of the world," said MFB Legislative Counsel Tonia Ritter.

Bipartisan, bichamber support

This event was made possible thanks to the support of the participating agricultural organizations and legislative sponsors Rep. Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell), Rep. Jeff Mayes (D-Bay City), Sen. John Gleason (D-Flushing) and Sen. Gerald VanWoerkom (R-Muskegon).

Member Services "Member in Action" Photo Contest

Michigan Farm Bureau is kicking off the 3rd Annual Member Services Photo Contest. "Members in Action" is this year's theme and we will be seeking 13 photographs for our 2008 Member Service Calendar. Photos should capture our members at home, at work and participating in a variety of Farm Bureau activities and programs. All winners will be notified and will be given credit in the calendar. One grand prize winner will receive a \$100 cash prize and have his/her photograph grace the cover of the calendar. Contest rules and entry forms will be available on the Michigan Farm Bureau website or by contacting the Member Services Department at (800) 292-2680, ext. 3240. Contest Deadline is Friday, June 15, 2007.



March 2007 National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month. A healthy diet is high in fruits and vegetables, and evidence indicates that eating more fruits and vegetables can lower a person's risk for chronic diseases such as certain cancers and cardiovascular disease (1). Healthy People 2010 objectives include increasing the proportion of

persons who eat adequate amounts of fruit and vegetables every day (objectives 19-5 and 19-6) (2).

In March, the Produce for Better Health Foundation, a nonprofit consumer education organization, introduced the Fruit & Veggies --- More Matters health initiative, which provides nutritional information, cooking advice, and shopping tips to help members of the public increase consumption of fruits and vegetables. CDC, the foundation, and other partners are collaborating through research, education, and environmental and policy strategies to encourage persons in the United States to eat more fruits and vegetables. Additional information on National Nutrition Month is available at <http://www.eatright.org> and on the Produce for Better Health Foundation's health initiative at <http://www.fruitsandveggiessmorematters.org>. Information regarding 5 A Day for Better Health, a CDC-led program (including several public and private partners) to increase fruit and vegetable consumption, is available at <http://www.5aday.gov>.

2007 Budget Cut Progress

The respective State House and Senate subcommittees continue to meet on the budgets. Testimony has been provided to the Higher Education Subcommittee on the importance of funding for Agriculture Research and Extension. Also testimony has been provided by members of various commodity groups to reinforce the importance of adequate funding on the Department of Agriculture budget.

Currently, the subcommittees have been instructed to not report their budgets out of committee pending further negotiations by leadership on the current \$1 billion deficit for this year and the slow movement of the Single Business Tax replacement.

Discussions continue between House and Senate leadership. It is anticipated that the Governor will participate in these discussions upon her return from the trade trip to Germany.

In summary, there has been minimal progress.



Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health Opens at Michigan State University

Located on the campus of Michigan State University, the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) brings together under one roof laboratories and scientists all with one common goal: To protect the health and well-being of our human and animal populations.

This unique facility will be used by scientists from MSU and the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources to assist in the surveillance and detection of diseases such as bovine tuberculosis and rabies, as well as diseases that have yet to make their mark in Michigan such as chronic wasting disease and foot-and-mouth disease.

Resting on 14 acres just south of the main MSU campus, the center provides diagnostic services to veterinarians, livestock owners and many others, all in a safe, contained environment.

The Facts:

Containing 152,000 gross square feet of space, the DCPAH brings together 10 labs that previously had been located in several buildings on the MSU campus.

The building is located on 14 acres of land at the corner Beaumont and Forest roads. Among the labs located in the building: clinical pathology, parasitology, bacteriology, toxicology and virology.

The center also biosafety level III (BL-3) containment to support, among other projects, the state of Michigan's bovine tuberculosis eradication program. It also contains BL-3 microbiology labs for the identification of pathogens that threaten animal and human health such as West Nile virus and multidrug resistant Salmonella.

The DCPAH employs about 120 professional, technical and support staff that annually process more than 160,000 diagnostic

submissions and perform as many as 1.2 million diagnostic tests.

The DCPAH serves as a learning center for students in the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. The center has laboratory and classroom space that is used for teaching veterinary students, providing postgraduate educational and research opportunities, training pathology students and conducting education programs.

The cost of the center: approximately \$58 million; funded through a special appropriation from the state of Michigan. The facility is owned and operated by MSU.

The Impact:

By combining a qualified staff and state-of-the-art facilities, the DCPAH is highly effective in diagnosing many diseases that already affect Michigan and our region, including bovine tuberculosis and West Nile virus.

Over the past two decades, nearly 75 percent of the approximately 30 new diseases discovered in humans were zoonotic (diseases transmissible from animals to humans). The DCPAH is a critical first line of defense in alerting public health officials of the presence of these diseases in our animal populations.

The rapid detection of zoonotic diseases provides an early warning for potential outbreaks of disease in humans. Examples: West Nile virus in birds, tuberculosis in deer and cattle, and rabies in raccoons.

Of the more than 1,650 human disease conditions, nearly 60 percent are caused by pathogens that also infect animals. Having a well-staffed, state-of-the-art diagnostic center that is capable of detecting these pathogens provides insurance for the protection of human and animal health.

Michigan livestock and wildlife generate approximately \$4 billion in direct economic activity and at least \$2 billion in indirect activity annually. Livestock production directly accounts for about 23,000 jobs in the state. Hunters and anglers spend about \$2.7 billion in Michigan annually.

Michigan's economy suffers an annual loss of more than \$100 million due to livestock diseases and parasites. For each 1 percent that livestock losses are cut through DCPAH services, Michigan saves \$1 million.

Did you know...

FarmLink Facts

Preserving the next generation of farmers is important to the members of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

The FarmLink member service program acts as a matching and consulting center for both sides of the equation -- retiring farmers and potential farmers. Through Farm Link matches, farming operations can continue to operate while the potential farmer works to build equity in the operation and form a joint venture with the retiring farmer.

For more information or to receive an application, call the Young Farmer Department at (800) 292-2680 ext. 3234.

