

## Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award Nominations

The Distinguished Service to Agriculture award is Michigan Farm Bureau's highest honor. Since 1956, we have presented this award to deserving individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the state's agricultural industry. As you can see from the attached "honor roll" of past recipients, each of these honorees did, indeed, provide "distinguished service" to Michigan agriculture.

We invite you to submit nominations for our 2007 Michigan Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture award. Please review the criteria for the award and use the enclosed form to submit your nomination. To be considered, your nomination must be received no later than October 1, 2007.

Please note that to be eligible for the 2007 Michigan Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture award, your nominee's service to agriculture must be of statewide, regional or industry-wide importance. There are many other appropriate honors and awards, which may be presented by local groups for people who have made important contributions to agriculture at the county and community levels. In fact, your county is encouraged to present a county Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture award, in addition to making nominations for the statewide award.

Persons selected to receive the Michigan Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture award will be honored at our 88th Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting during the banquet program on Thursday evening, November 29, at the Amway Grand and DeVos Convention Center, in Grand Rapids.

Please return your completed nomination form to: Michigan Farm Bureau, Information & Public Relations Division, DSA Nominations, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909.



## Farm Bureau honors Sanilac County member



In recognition of her outstanding work helping promote Sanilac County's vital agriculture industry, Snover-area farmer Shelly Brown has been honored by the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) as the statewide organization's Volunteer of the Month for July 2007.

Brown and her family own and operate a 1,000-acre operation, raising hay, corn, soybeans and wheat. She assists on the farm in many different ways, from planting and harvesting to scouting and field testing. The family also owns and operates Thornapple Feeds, distributing High Standard and Pride-brand feeds to producers statewide. For the feed business she handles ordering, distribution and billing - all in addition to helping her in-laws out on their dairy operation.

Brown's accomplishments this year on behalf of the Sanilac County Farm Bureau are truly outstanding. As the relatively new chair of its Promotion & Education committee, she planned the local Project RED (Rural Education Day) event, adding new educational opportunities for the county's fourth-graders and made improvements to the opening session. To make that possible, she first strengthened the committee itself, enlisting new member volunteers and involving them and their ideas from the very beginning to breathe fresh life into their activities.

"Shelly is a go-getter - enthusiastic, positive and highly organized - juggling volunteer work, full-time employment and work on the farm," wrote her nominator for Volunteer of the Month honors. "She's always willing to try new things and get involved."

"Shelly has put a different spin on some programs the county Farm Bureau has had for many years, and made them more successful thanks to her fresh, new perspective on the local farming industry - and the volunteers she works with."

Beyond Promotion & Education, Brown has also excelled as the local coordinator for MFB's Young People's Citizenship Seminar, visiting local high schools to recruit participants to attend the annual weeklong event that exposes young people to the American political system. She also lent a hand with her county Farm Bureau's 2007 membership drive, and continues to participate in the organization's Young Farmer program with her husband.

The



SEPTEMBER 2007



## Farm Bureau and staff pony up at Michigan Youth Livestock Auction

\$13,000 collectively bid on prize animals to support college education for youth.

The Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund got a boost Wednesday at the Michigan Youth Livestock Auction when the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) Family of Companies and its employees collectively bid approximately \$13,000 on prize animals raised by 4-H and FFA members.



Held annually in conjunction with the Michigan State Fair in Detroit, the auction helps youth earn money for college by putting them in the auction ring to market their prize steers, hogs and lambs. In addition, a portion of the proceeds raised goes toward providing scholarships and educational awards to young people through the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund.

In total, this year's auction generated nearly \$151,000 in sales, marking a 29 percent increase from 2006. It's estimated the auction raised about \$30,000 for the scholarship fund, said Ernie Birchmeier, chair of the auction committee and Michigan Youth Livestock Foundation Board of Directors.

"Between the support of the industry, the generosity of buyers, the quality of livestock, and the even higher quality and caliber of the young people, I'd say this was one of the best auctions we've ever had," said Birchmeier, who also wears the hat of MFB livestock and dairy specialist.

The MFB Family of Companies traditionally is a buyer at the auction. This year, the organization outbid fellow corporate buyers for the 2007 Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer. Purchased for \$7,500, the steer was exhibited by Andrew Jaroche of Hessel.

For the fourth consecutive year, employees of the MFB Family of Companies also got in on the action by bidding on animals with \$6,000 raised through an internal fundraiser called "Campaign for Kids." The campaign asked the organization's nearly 700-person work force to "pony up and dress down." In other words, employees could dress casually on summer Fridays by making personal financial contributions to the campaign.

## Membership Standings

2006/07 08/28/07

Goal	201,244	195,033
Target	47,655	47,016



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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](http://www.michiganfarmbureau.com/cag).
- Completed set up sheets can be mailed directly to your county administrative manager. Remember: discussion Leaders are designated to receive all materials so make sure the person designated as DL is an active member of your group.
- Any suggestions or ideas for future articles, discussion topics or fun pages can be e-mailed to [smorris@michfb.com](mailto:smorris@michfb.com) or sent to Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 West Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917 Attention: Sarah Morrison

### September

• County Annual Meetings

### October

• MFB State Policy Development Committee Meetings

### November

• State Annual Meeting

## Movement Certificates For Moving Cattle

Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) officials remind producers that all cattle and bison from the Lower Peninsula moving across bovine Tuberculosis (TB) zonal boundaries are required to have a movement certificate before leaving farm premises.

"Michigan must prove to other states that our disease testing, surveillance and regulatory programs are preventing the spread of bovine TB," said Dr. Steven Halstead, state veterinarian. "Certificates for movement are critical to Michigan's goal of achieving TB-free status. To help us achieve it, MDA is partnering with the Michigan State Police to check livestock vehicles, loaded or empty, to ensure haulers have the proper paperwork both at the Mackinac Bridge and along the border between the Modified Accredited Zone and the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone."

Movement regulations include:

- Mandatory electronic ID for all cattle in Michigan leaving farm premises.
- MDA movement certificates for all cattle or bison moving out of either the Modified Accredited (MAZ) or Modified Accredited Advanced Zones (MAAZ).
- Testing and movement requirements remain the same in the MAZ.
- All sexually intact cattle (except those intended for slaughter), six months of age or older, in the MAAZ must have a bovine TB test - with negative results - within 60 days before movement out of the MAAZ.

(NOTE: TB testing and movement certificates are not required to move within the MAAZ.)

TB testing and movement certificates are no longer required for movement of cattle from farms in the Upper Peninsula to any destination within Michigan, but producers must contact other states for their health requirements if moving cattle out of state.

To obtain movement certificates, cattle producers and haulers should contact MDA at (866) 870-5136. For more information, please visit the Emerging Diseases Web site at [www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases) or contact MDA's Animal Industry Division at (517) 373-1077.

## Michigan earns national recognition for food safety

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and Michigan State Police (MSP) Traffic Safety Division received national attention for their contribution to food safety through the Multi-State Food Safety and Food Security Transportation Project Group. The Food and Drug Administration presented its annual Leveraging/Collaboration Award to the Michigan-led group for their outstanding planning, teamwork, and initiative-taking.

"This prestigious honor highlights Michigan's proactive approach to consumer protection and underscores our commitment to food safety," said Mitch Irwin, MDA director. "This collaboration enables us to leverage the resources of several agencies and maintain the safety of our food supply."

"Ensuring food products are transported to stores and restaurants in a safe and secure manner is critical to protecting Michigan's food supply," said Colonel Peter C. Munoz, MSP Director. "The on-going partnership between Michigan State Police commercial vehicle enforcement members and the Michigan Department of Agriculture food inspectors has been highly effective in meeting this challenge."

Michigan directed the development of this multi-agency, interstate effort to assess both safety and security measures currently used by vehicles transporting food in the Great Lakes region. The results identified areas for improvement for some transporters who had problems with temperature and protection of food from cross contamination while in transit. Overall, however, the project showed that food distribution takes place in a safe manner.

For more information on food safety, visit [www.michigan.gov/foodsafety](http://www.michigan.gov/foodsafety), [www.foodsafety.gov](http://www.foodsafety.gov), or [www.fightbac.org](http://www.fightbac.org).



## New Border Security & Worksite Enforcement Plan Announced

The Bush Administration recently released a 26-point plan to secure our borders, improve worksite enforcement, and streamline existing guestworker programs, all within the boundaries of existing law. A 4 page summary of that plan is attached.

### Social Security Mismatch Letters

One of those 26 points is a new rule released on Aug. 14 that is intended to assist the government in cracking down on employers who knowingly hire illegal workers. Every year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) informs employers via a "no-match" letter that certain employee's names and corresponding Social Security numbers provided on Forms W-2 do not match SSA's records.

This new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rule reiterates that employers will be accountable for the workers they hire. Accompanying the mismatch letter this year will also be a letter from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), informing employers on how to respond in a manner consistent with obligation under U.S. immigration laws. That letter and a fact sheet are attached.

Employers may not simply disregard the mismatch letter, as some have done in the past. If you disregard and it is determined that some employees listed were not authorized to work, DHS could determine that you have violated the law by knowingly continuing to employ unauthorized persons, and this could lead to civil and criminal sanctions and fines.

The rule outlines specific steps employers should take when they receive a mismatch letter, and provides a 30 day initial window for verification, and a 90 timeframe to resolve the issue. The rule is effective September 14, 2007 and can be accessed via the federal register at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-16066.pdf>

### Streamlining Existing Guestworker Programs

Two additional points in the plan address the H-2A and H-2B programs. The President has directed the Department of Labor to review the regulation implementing the H-2A program and to institute changes that will provide farmers with an orderly and timely flow of legal workers, while protecting the rights of workers. DOL has also been instructed to make changes to the H-2B program, (which some of our nursery/landscape members use) to speed up processing by moving from a government certified system to an employer attestation system.

These changes are likely to go through a rules process, with no tangible action or relief to our members for 6-9 months at the earliest, unless the President or Congress intervened.

The rule, fact sheets and more information will be available on MFB's website at [www.michiganfarmbureau.com](http://www.michiganfarmbureau.com) or at <http://www.ice.gov>

## Did you know...August is National Chicken Month

- The record for egg laying is seven in one day
- The record for number of yolks in one egg is nine.
- In 2005, there were 8.1 million head of egg layers in Michigan.
- In 2005, Michigan farmers sold 5.1 million chickens.

