

The

# LOOK

May 2009



## Membership Standings

2009 4/20/2009

Goal	192,719	130,144	67.53%
Target	47,543	36,343	76.44%

**The entire focus of the Spring 2009 edition of the FB Update DVD is on the issue of animal welfare. Several livestock producers, as well as MFB staff members, will speak on the subject and what farmer members can do to defend and support the state's livestock industry.**



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## Farm Bureau mourns passing of Michigan ag leader Dave Morris

Contact: Dennis Rudat (800) 292-2680, ext. 6586, or Bob Boehm, ext. 2023

Pictured Left: The Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) presented its highest honor, the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, to longtime farmer and agricultural leader Dave Morris during an awards ceremony Dec. 4 at the MFB 89th Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. Here, Morris, of Grand Ledge, addresses the MFB membership after being recognized by MFB President Wayne H. Wood, also pictured.



The Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) is mourning the loss of Dave Morris, one of the state's biggest agricultural advocates and visionaries. The Grand Ledge farmer passed away April 17.

"To say that Dave Morris made an impression on Michigan agriculture is an understatement. He leaves a legacy that will impact Michigan agriculture for generations to come," said MFB President Wayne H. Wood. "In every facet of his life whether it be farming, public service or philanthropy, Dave touched the lives of thousands, and he will be sorely missed."

Morris had a long history of Farm Bureau leadership. He joined the organization in 1950 and quickly became involved with the Clinton County Farm Bureau. He was appointed to the MFB Board of Directors in 1963 and served on the board for a decade. He also presided over the Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

Last year, MFB presented Morris with the organization's highest honor, the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, which recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the state's agriculture industry.

Morris was also a tireless advocate for agricultural programs of the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU Extension and the Michigan Agriculture Experiment Station.



### A LOOK AHEAD ...

#### May

25 Memorial Day Holiday

#### June

22-26 Young People's Citizenship Seminar (YPCS)

26-28 Membership Chairman's Trip - Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

#### July

17-19 Michigan Livestock Expo - Ingham County Fairgrounds, Mason. (MSU Pavilion)

21-23 Ag Expo - MSU



## FARMERS CARE. HOW ARE YOU SHOWING CONSUMERS?

Do you ever stop to think where the food you eat comes from? Do you care? Michigan Farm Bureau cares and so do the thousands of farmers that our organization represents. As consumers, we have little opportunity to learn about agriculture and just how farmers care about the food we eat. As farmers, we don't do enough to tell others what we do to care for the land, food and animals we raise.

Farmers are committed to providing safe food while always keeping the environment in mind. Planting filter strips along ditch-banks, using Global positioning technology to map out fields and use exact fertilizer and spray application are just a few ways they care for the environment.

Did you know that agriculture is the second largest industry in our state contributing more than \$73 billion to Michigan's economy? Or that the United States has one of the safest food supply chains in the world? All of this in part to the ones that work the land, tend to the animals and grow the food that we enjoy each and every day. We want to hear from you, our members, about how issues impacting agriculture affect you. Please take the time to fill-out the enclosed card and return it to Michigan Farm Bureau, Attn: Member Services Department, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917 and let us know your thoughts!

### Farmers Care Photo Contest

Michigan Farm Bureau is kicking off the 5th Annual Member Service Photo Contest and we need your help! We're seeking photographs depicting how our "Farmers Care" about the land, the environment, their animals and your well-being.

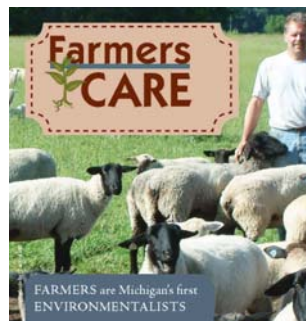
Thirteen photographs will be selected with each winner receiving credit in the 2010 Member Service calendar. One grand prize winner will receive a \$100 cash prize and have his/her photograph take center stage on the cover of the calendar. Deadline is June 1, 2009. For more information, visit us at [www.michfb.com/benefits](http://www.michfb.com/benefits) for contest rules and details or call us at (800) 292-2680 ext. 3240.

### Available resources to help educate consumers on how farmers care:

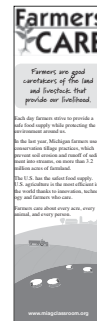
- Farmers Care Display



- Farmers Care Brochure



- Farmers Care Bookmark



These items are available by contacting your county administrative manager.

Your county Farm Bureaus are currently appointing Farmers Care Action Teams (FCAT).

If you are interested in helping educate other consumers in your county, let your county President know you are interested in serving on this committee.

## Spring planting season warrants farm equipment/transportation safety review

Contact: Craig Anderson, (800) 292-2680, ext. 2311

The most recent statistics available indicate there were 172 crashes involving farm equipment on Michigan roads in 2007. To avoid becoming another statistic, farmers are reminded to keep transportation and equipment safety in mind as the spring planting season approaches.

First, farmers should be certain that all their slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblems and red reflectors are clearly visible, and not faded, advises Craig Anderson, manager of Michigan Farm Bureau's Agricultural Labor and Safety Services program, formerly known as the Regulatory Compliance Assistance Program. Anderson also recommends replacing old SMV emblems with new ones made with Reflexite materials.

Second, be sure proper safety chains are in place when towing equipment, behind either a tractor or a truck, says Anderson. Third, be sure all brakes are in working order, and lock tractor brake pedals together when on the road.

Anderson also recommends installing rear-view mirrors and fire extinguishers as additional equipment on all farm tractors.

"If your tractor is equipped with Roll-Over Protection Structures (ROPS) equipment and seat belts, be sure to wear those seat belts," said Anderson. "There are no known fatalities when a ROPS is properly installed and seat belts are worn."

As for field safety, Anderson reminds farmers to have all shields and guards in place, including on augers, power take-offs, and electrical and manure transport systems.

More tips can be found online at: [www.michfb.com/safety](http://www.michfb.com/safety).

### Farm Bureau Quick Facts

- May is National Strawberry Month (in addition to National Egg Month)
- Strawberries are the first fruit to ripen in the spring in Michigan.
- The average strawberry has 200 seeds.
- Strawberries are the only fruit with seeds on the outside.
- Flavor is influenced by growing conditions such as weather, stage of ripeness when harvested, and the variety. Size is not a factor in determining flavor.
- Eight medium-sized strawberries contain 93 percent of the U.S. recommended daily allowance for Vitamin C. In addition, strawberries are good sources of folic acid, potassium and fiber. They are also fat-free and contain only 45 calories per serving.
- Strawberries are among the top five most frequently consumed fruits, and strawberry consumption is growing faster than any other fruit. In fact, one in five households report eating more strawberries in the last year.
- In parts of Bavaria, country folk still practice the annual rite each spring of tying small baskets of wild strawberries to the horns of their cattle as an offering to elves because it's been said that elves foster a special fondness for the fruit. In return, it's believed the elves will help the cattle produce healthy calves and an abundance of milk.



Source: Michigan Department of Agriculture and the California Strawberry Commission

**CONGRATULATIONS  
to the East Side CAG of  
Saginaw on their 48th year as  
a Community Action Group with  
Michigan Farm Bureau!!!!  
Thank you!**

### **ACRE program enrollment opens April 27**

Contact: Bob Boehm, (800) 292-2680, ext. 2023

Beginning April 27, farmers can elect and enroll in the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The ACRE program was created in the 2008 farm bill as an innovative alternative to traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers who elect the ACRE program agree to:

- Forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- Accept a 20-percent reduction of direct payments;
- Accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments include wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola and rapeseed. Farmers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Producers have until Aug. 14 to make their decision for the 2009 crop. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will not accept any late-filed applications.

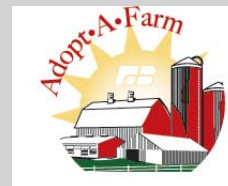
To elect ACRE, producers must complete Form CCC-509 ACRE, which irrevocably elects ACRE for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in ACRE, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

Farmers can learn more about ACRE on the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) Web site at [www.michfb.com/issues/farmbill](http://www.michfb.com/issues/farmbill), or by clicking on the farm bill graphic in the center of the MFB home page at [www.michfb.com](http://www.michfb.com). Online resources available from MFB include calculators to help farmers compare how different farm bill programs would impact their farm and videos that capture farm bill educational presentations delivered by Michigan State University Extension staff.

Information about ACRE is also available at USDA Service Centers, county FSA offices and online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### **Expose the 'culture' in agriculture with Adopt-A-Farm**

Contact: Jill Corrin (800) 292-2680, ext. 6585; or Jeremy C. Nagel, ext. 6584.



Explore how farmers care for their animals and the land, how they help feed the world, and how they carry on generational legacies with assistance from Michigan Farm Bureau's Adopt-A-Farm service.

Adopt-A-Farm helps news organizations connect with local farm families for stories about farm life in the local area.

Don't let the name fool you. While Adopt-A-Farm has helped news organizations partner with local farmers on multi-part series, a long-term commitment is not required.

Many media outlets have found success in using the service to generate a list of potential sources and agriculture story ideas unique to their community to pursue when convenient.

The best part is Michigan Farm Bureau staff work with county Farm Bureaus to line up cooperative sources for interviews.

A sign-up form and more information is available online at [www.michfb.com/press/adopt](http://www.michfb.com/press/adopt) or by calling Jill Corrin, media support services manager, at (800) 292-2680, ext. 6585; or Jeremy C. Nagel, county communications manager, ext. 6584.

### **Reminders**



- CAG's have online resources available. The Loop, Discussion Topics, Discussion Response Form, Report Form, Questions and the Fun Page are all available to view and print by visiting [www.michfb.com/cag](http://www.michfb.com/cag)
- Any suggestions or ideas for future articles, discussion topics or fun pages can be E-mailed to [apline@michfb.com](mailto:apline@michfb.com) or sent to Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 West Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917 Attention: Amy Pline
- This issue contains your next quarterly "FB Update" DVD.