



# THE Loop

N E W S L E T T E R

## FARMER CANDIDATES PLOW POLITICAL GROUND IN PRIMARY ELECTION

Contact: Matt Kapp (800 292-2680, ext. 2027 or Sarah Black, ext. 2040)

LANSING, Aug. 5, 2010 - Several Michigan farmers plowed major political ground in Tuesday's primary election and have staked their claim on the November ballot in a quest to reform and revitalize the state.

Of the 100 candidates that Michigan Farm Bureau's (MFB) political action committee AgriPac endorsed as Friends of Agriculture in House and Senate races, 11 are farmers and all but two won their primary race on Aug. 2. They are:

**John Kupiec of Grand Blanc**, the Republican U.S. House of Representatives candidate vying to represent District 5, which covers parts of Bay, Genesee, Saginaw and Tuscola Counties.

**John Hochstetler of Manchester**, the Republican Michigan Senate candidate vying to represent District 18, which covers Washtenaw County.

**Tom Casperson of Escanaba**, the Republican Michigan Senate candidate vying to represent District 38, which covers the Upper Peninsula minus Chippewa and Mackinaw Counties.

**Jeff Oesterle of Mason**, the Republican Michigan House of Representatives candidate vying to represent District 67, which covers Ingham County.

**Ken Yonker of Caledonia**, the Republican Michigan House of Representatives candidate vying to represent District 72, which covers Kent County.

**Kevin Daley of Lum**, the Republican Michigan House of Representatives candidate vying to represent District 82, which covers Lapeer County.  
 Joel Johnson of Clare, the Republican Michigan House of Representatives candidate vying to represent District 97, which covers Arenac, Bay, Clare and Gladwin Counties.

## Membership Standings

	2010	AUG 23, 2010	
GOAL	189,958	186,975	<b>98.43%</b>
TARGET	47,736	46,603	<b>97.63%</b>

## A look ahead...

### SEPTEMBER 2010

1 2010/11 Membership Campaign begins

### NOVEMBER 2010

1 2010/11 Membership Campaign begins

### NOV 30 - DEC 3 2010

2010 MFB State Annual Meeting,  
 Amway / DeVos, Grand Rapids

## Reminders...

- "FB Update" DVDs are mailed out quarterly. Your next version will be in November 2010.
- All CAG Set-up Sheets were due to County Administrative Managers by Dec 1, 2009.
- CAG's have online resources available. The Loop, Discussion Topic questions, Set-up Sheet, Discussion Response Form and Report Form 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 or discussion topics can be E-mailed to [apline@michfb.com](mailto:apline@michfb.com) or sent to Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 West Saginaw Hwy, PO Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909-8460, Attn: Amy Pline



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



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**Bruce Rendon of Lake City**, the Republican Michigan House of Representatives candidate vying to represent District 103, which covers Iosco, Missaukee, Ogemaw and Roscommon Counties.

**Ed McBroom of Vulcan**, the Republican Michigan House of Representatives candidate vying to represent District 108, which covers Delta, Dickinson and Menominee Counties.

“This is a proud time for Michigan farmers and an encouraging sign for the people of Michigan,” said MFB land use and elections specialist Matt Kapp. “Voters clearly want change, and farmers have stepped forward to lend their common sense and business expertise to fix Michigan. The fact that these farmers were embraced at the polls indicates voters are confident these individuals will make a difference.”

While succumbing to different election outcomes, AgriPac-endorsed state House candidates Triston Cole of Mancelona, a contender in the District 105 Republican primary, and Linda Howard of Remus, a candidate in the District 102 Republican primary, also performed impressively, said Kapp. District 102 covers Mecosta, Osceola and Wexford Counties. District 105 covers Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan and Otsego Counties.

“According to available Secretary of State results, Triston Cole was among six candidates and came in a close second in his race. Linda Howard was among five candidates in her race and finished in third place,” said Kapp. “Both Triston and Linda rose to the occasion and should be proud of their very respectable standings in the vote tallies.”

**Overall success**

Based on current election results from the Secretary of State (and not pending contested races), 85 percent of the 100 candidates endorsed by AgriPac in House and Senate races came out victors in the primary election.

“Many factors play into AgriPac’s high success rate,” said Sarah Black, AgriPac secretary and director of the MFB Public Policy and Commodity Division. “It starts with AgriPac’s comprehensive endorsement process, continues with grassroots support at the local level, and comes full circle with voters agreeing that these Friends of Agriculture care about Michigan’s future and have the ideas, skills and values necessary to

generate jobs, streamline Michigan government and enhance agriculture, our state’s second largest and growing industry.”

**Moving forward**

AgriPac now turns its attention to endorsing and helping to elect Friends of Agriculture in the Nov. 2 general election. The committee plans to announce its endorsements for the general election in September after reviewing the primary election results and considering candidates for executive offices including governor.

**LOCAL YOUTH ATTEND NATIONAL FFA CONFERENCE WITH FARM BUREAU HELP**

Contact: Dennis Rudat (800) 292-2680, ext. 6586

LANSING, Aug. 13, 2010 - Thanks to continued financial support from the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB), 80 FFA youth from across Michigan recently took part in FFA’s premier Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

(TO LOCALIZE BY ADDING INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE FROM YOUR AREA, SEE THE PDF LIST OF LOCAL PARTICIPANTS.)

A collaborative effort between the national FFA and the U.S. Department of Education, the Washington Leadership Conference puts young people through weeklong training that aims to improve their leadership skills, help them make a positive impact in their communities, and shoulder more prominent roles and responsibilities in their local FFA chapters, communities and future careers.

“This conference provides the finest leadership and citizenship training FFA has to offer,” said Burt Henry, the conference coordinator for Michigan and an Alma High School agriscience teacher and FFA advisor.

Attendance by students from Michigan FFA chapters got a boost again this year thanks to a \$30,000 Farm Bureau scholarship. MFB’s support, plus an additional \$6,000 from the Michigan FFA Foundation, made it possible to fill two buses this year, one each for the last two weeks of June. MFB also lent a hand by arranging for the groups to tour the American Farm Bureau Federation headquarters and the Capitol building.

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“FFA’s Washington Leadership Conference is the first opportunity for many students to attend a national conference, and often it’s their first-ever trip to our nation’s capital,” said MFB President Wayne H. Wood. “These are experiences these students won’t forget. It’s a privilege for Michigan Farm Bureau to help make a positive and lasting impression on our youth.”

Wood added that the FFA Washington Leadership Conference is a perfect complement to MFB’s annual Young People’s Citizenship Seminar.

“The Michigan Farm Bureau works with youth on leadership and character building at the state level through our Young People’s Citizenship Seminar,” Wood said. “FFA’s Washington Leadership Conference provides a natural transition for these students to continue their education and development at the national level.”

In total, the Washington Leadership Conference involved more than 2,000 FFA members from across the country and focused on problem-solving, relationship building, living with character and developing an attitude for serving others.

Students attended workshop sessions on persuasive communication, character leadership and building relationships. They also participated in discussions on citizenship as well as service learning events.

Students further increased their appreciation for the nation’s heritage with visits to Mount Vernon; Arlington National Cemetery; the Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt memorials; and other notable D.C. sights. Attendees also were able to visit the office of their legislator.

Formerly known as Future Farmers of America, FFA is a national youth organization of nearly half a million student members—all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture—from 7,000 local FFA chapters across the country. For more information, visit <http://www.ffa.org>.

*Editor’s Note: Photographs of local participants, grouped by their week of attendance at the conference, are available for download at <http://www.michfb.com/newsroom/photos/54>.*

## QUICK FACTS: HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW SEPTEMBER?



- September is National Chicken Month.

- It is also Cholesterol Awareness Month in America.
- The very first comic strip was printed in an American newspaper on September 11th, 1875
- The famous leader singer of the classic rock band Queen, Freddie Mercury was born on September 5th, 1946 on the island of Zanzibar.



- The poem “Mary had a Little Lamb” was published September 1st, 1830.

- World War II began September 1939, when Hitler invaded Poland.
- The US Treasury Department was established 1789.
- September 5th, is National Cheese Pizza Day.
- The 1st Continental Congress was called to order on September 5, 1774.
- September 9th is National Teddy Bear Day.
- September 16th is National Play-Doh Day.
- September 19th is “Talk Like a Pirate Day” around the world...an International event.
- The first airport opened on September 29.

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### DIGITAL DIALOGUE REMINDER!

You can follow Michigan Farm Bureau news and interact with the organization using the following social media tools.



The Michigan Farm Bureau operates a page on Facebook called Michigan Farm Bureau. Search for it at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and become a fan.



The Michigan Farm Bureau operates a Twitter account named MichFarmBureau (no spaces). You can find us at <http://twitter.com/MichFarmBureau> and become a follower.



The Michigan Farm Bureau has its YouTube channel, appropriately titled, MichiganFarmBureau (no spaces). Find it at <http://www.youtube.com/MichiganFarmBureau> and become a subscriber.

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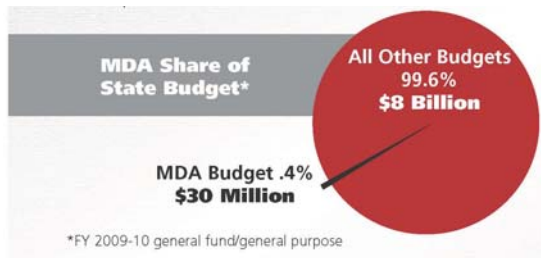


**HIGH RETURNS, LOW COST FOR MICHIGAN CITIZENS.**

Whether you realize it or not, MDA is involved in your everyday life. Despite the lost cost and big impact, MDA is still at risk.

Despite the fact that the department has already made significant budget reductions, secured industry support to help finance certain programs and services, and is considered a model state agency by some, MDA has become a target for fixing Michigan's budget deficit. This is unrealistic when you consider that:

- Disproportionate to other state departments, MDA's budget has been cut in half over the last ten years.
- MDA's current budget is barely a fraction of Michigan's total budget pie.
- Continued cuts to MDA will not solve Michigan's budget problems. This action only cripples MDA's ability to maintain vital programs and services that serve all residents daily, and threatens growth in one of the few bright spots in Michigan's economy.
- To address the budget, state government must reform spending in the state's most expensive departments.



- Make your friends and family aware of how MDA impacts them daily.
- Contact your legislators:
  - > Remind your state Senator and Representative of the vital services that MDA provides.

- > Stress that Michigan needs a Department of Agriculture to protect its citizens.
- > Urge your Representative and Senator to support adequate funding for MDA and seek budget reforms in other areas, as further slashing MDA's budget will not fix Michigan's budget deficit - not even put a dent in the problem.

• Tell the Governor the same!

**Learn more**

- Watch the video "for 2c A Day Michigan Department of Agriculture Protects You Morning, Noon & Night" on Michigan Farm Bureau's You Tube Channel at YouTube.com/MichiganFarmBureau.
- Stay plugged in and join the conversation on Facebook at facebook.com/MichiganFarmBureau and Twitter at twitter.com/MichFarmBureau.
- Go to [www.michfb.com/issues/streamlining](http://www.michfb.com/issues/streamlining)

**Other materials available:**

Placemat 11" x 17"	\$0.20 each
Brochures (Tri-fold/colored)	
Qty up to 2,500	\$0.27 each
Qty greater than 2,500	\$0.21 each
Display 3 panels - 22" x 34" and header 11" x 22" (does not include tabletop display boards)	\$55.00

**To order, contact Andrena Reid (517) 323-7000 Ext. 2022, Fax (517) 323-0230, or via email, [areid@michfb.com](mailto:areid@michfb.com). \*Please note shipping charges are in addition to cost of materials.**

(Below: tri-fold brochure, 2-sided)



**Please note that the Community Action Fun Page has been discontinued. The archive for past copies, back to 2006, is available on the MFB website, under the Fun Page Tab.**