

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU
2003-2006 VOTING RECORD OF
MICHIGAN SENATE

1. **WATER CONFLICTS (H.B. 4087)** – Vote on a bill to vitalize the Michigan Department of Agriculture to resolve groundwater conflicts between a high capacity well owner and a small quantity well owner. The Michigan Senate passed the bill June 10, 2003. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
2. **AGRICULTURE ENHANCEMENT (H.B. 4610)** – Vote on a bill to allow video lottery games at horse racetracks with a portion of the revenue raised going to enhance the agriculture industry. The Michigan Senate passed the bill April 29, 2004. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
3. **FARM PRODUCE INSURANCE (H.B. 4311)** – Vote on a bill to create a voluntary producer financed grain insurance fund to provide protection to producers for nonpayment of grain delivered to license grain dealers in Michigan. The Michigan Senate passed the bill October 23, 2003. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
4. **AGRICULTURE RENAISSANCE ZONES (S.B. 163)** – Vote on a bill to increase the number of agriculture renaissance zones to attract agricultural processing and value-added operations. The Michigan Senate passed the bill March 27, 2003. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
5. **DEAD ANIMAL COMPOSTING (S.B. 2)** – Vote on a bill to allow on-farm composting of dead animals. It provided the opportunity to clarify and define new methodologies for large animal composting. The Michigan Senate passed the bill June 22, 2005. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
6. **MIGRANT HOUSING (S.B. 195)** – Vote on a bill to clarify who would be in violation of operating an agricultural labor camp without a license and increased the administrative fine. The Michigan Senate passed the bill May 3, 2005. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
7. **METHANE DIGESTERS – LOAN FUND (S.B. 538)** – Vote on a bill to allow an eligible farmer to receive loans from the Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Revolving Loan Fund for a project involving agricultural biomass. The Michigan Senate passed the bill June 14, 2005. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
8. **EXTENSION OF COUNTY ROAD WEIGHT PROVISIONS FOR AGRICULTURE (S.B. 779)** – Vote on a bill to extend the agricultural provision to drive specifically configured vehicles on county roads at 80,000 pounds gross vehicle weight. The Michigan Senate passed the bill January 31, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
9. **STATE PREEMPTION OF LOCAL SEED REGULATIONS (S.B. 777)** - Vote on a bill to restrict local units of government from creating an ordinance that prohibits or regulates the labeling, sale, storage, transportation, distribution, use or planting of agricultural, vegetable, flower or forest tree seeds. Without this legislation agriculture might face a patchwork of regulations, and be zoned out of using advancing seed technologies. The Michigan Senate passed the bill April 27, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
10. **MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE (S.B. 318)** – Vote on a bill to raise the minimum wage from the current \$5.15 per hour to \$7.40 per hour by July 1, 2008. The Michigan Senate passed the bill March 9, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “N” vote.

- 11. WATER USE ASSESSMENT TOOL (S.B. 850)** - Vote on a bill which is part of a package of bills that regulate certain water withdrawals based on their potential to have adverse resource impacts. This bill creates a water use assessment tool for water users to utilize to determine environmental risks associated with a new or expanded use above 100,000 gallons per day. In the time required to develop the tool, wells would need to meet setback (1,320 feet) and depth (150 feet) restrictions to receive a presumption that their use will not cause an adverse resource impact. Existing water users would have a presumption that their use is not having any adverse resource impacts. New or expanded uses that exceed two million gallons per day and feed a common distribution system would be required to obtain a permit. The Michigan Senate passed the bill February 9, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
- 12. AGRICULTURE WATER USE REPORTING (S.B. 852)** - Vote on a bill which is part of a package of bills that regulate certain water withdrawals based on their potential to have adverse resource impacts. This bill modifies the agriculture reporting process and requires that farmers provide the location of their wells to within 25 feet. This information would not be subject to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request and the State could not put the information in the public domain. The Michigan Senate passed the bill February 9, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
- 13. LOCAL WATER USERS COMMITTEE (S.B. 854)** - Vote on a bill which is part of a package of bills that regulate certain water withdrawals based on their potential to have adverse resource impacts. This bill encourages the creation of local water user committees to evaluate the status of current water resources, water use, and trends in water use within a watershed and assist in long-term water resources planning. The Michigan Senate passed the bill February 9, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
- 14. FACILITY DESIGNATION (H.B. 4617)** – Vote on a bill to amend Part 201 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the designation of a contaminated “facility” to be based on testing or the property owner’s agreement. The bill also excluded a “remediated site” from designation as a facility and requires that peer-reviewed studies and criteria be incorporated into remedial action plans. The Michigan Senate passed the bill December 7, 2005. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
- 15. MOTOR FUEL TAX EXEMPTIONS (S.B. 1074)** – Vote on a bill which is part of a package of bills that provide new opportunities for ethanol and biodiesel distribution and consumption in Michigan. This bill would provide a tax break in the Motor Fuel Tax at the pump. The Michigan Senate passed the bill April 20, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
- 16. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RENAISSANCE ZONES (S.B. 1078)** – Vote on a bill which is part of a package of bills that provide new opportunities for ethanol and biodiesel distribution and consumption in Michigan. This bill would allow for the designation of up to ten additional Renaissance Zones for “Renewable Energy Facilities”. The Michigan Senate passed the bill April 20, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
- 17. STATE FLEET REQUIREMENT (S.B. 1075)** – Vote on a bill which is part of a package of bills that provide new opportunities for ethanol and biodiesel distribution and consumption in Michigan. This bill would require the state to install the necessary fueling infrastructure or contract with a supplier to supply the state fleet with alternative fuels. Alternative fuels are defined as E85 and biodiesel blends. The Michigan Senate passed the bill April 20, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.
- 18. GAS STATION CONVERSION GRANTS (S.B. 1076)** - Vote on a bill which is part of a package of bills that provide new opportunities for ethanol and biodiesel distribution and consumption in Michigan. This bill would create a matching grant program for the conversion of existing fuel delivery systems to those designed to deliver E85 and biodiesel fuel blends. The Michigan Senate passed the bill April 20, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.

19. BIODIESEL STANDARDS (S.B. 1079) - Vote on a bill which is part of a package of bills that provide new opportunities for ethanol and biodiesel distribution and consumption in Michigan. This bill would define biodiesel in statute and require the Director of the Department of Agriculture to establish standards to ensure the purity and quality of diesel fuel sold in Michigan. The Michigan Senate passed the bill April 20, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.

20. BIOMASS FUEL PROMOTION (S.B. 1077) - Vote on a bill which is part of a package of bills that provide new opportunities for ethanol and biodiesel distribution and consumption in Michigan. This bill would create an Alternative Fuels Commission to recommend strategies that the Governor and the Legislature may implement to promote the use of ethanol and biodiesel and encourage the use of alternative fuel vehicles. The Michigan Senate passed the bill April 20, 2006. Farm Bureau favored a “Y” vote.