The American Farm Bureau Federation is the nation's largest general farm organization with over 6 million member families in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

The Annual Convention is an opportunity for members across the nation to come together for educational and networking opportunities. During this meeting our delegates will adopt policies for the coming year and elect leadership to guide these policies forward.
Convention Hotel
You will be staying with the Michigan delegation at the **Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center.** The address is: 2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, TN 37214, (615) 889-1000, [www.gaylordhotels.com](http://www.gaylordhotels.com). Hotel space is limited.

You'll be amazed by the majestic glass atriums, nine acres of indoor gardens, cascading waterfalls and indoor river - all in a climate controlled environment. Check-in at 4:00 pm and Check-out at 11:00 am. Parking at the hotel is $29 per day.

The cost is $210 per room per night, plus 9.25% sales tax and 6% room tax for a traditional room.

The Convention Center is connected to the hotel.

AFBF Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast

The Foundation for Agriculture is hosting a pancake breakfast on **Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 7:45 a.m.** at the Convention Center.

This event benefits programs that educate teachers, students and the non-farm public about agriculture.

Tickets are **$37 per person.**

AFBF Farm to 5K Run

**Saturday, January 6, 2018** from 7:00 am to 9:30 am. Cost is: **$27.50 in advance or $30.00 on site.** This is a chipped run.

AFBF Leadership Luncheon

The Leadership Luncheon is on **Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.** at the Convention Center. Chris Chinn, Director of Missouri Department of Agriculture will be the guest speaker.

All participants of the AFBF Convention are invited to attend.

Tickets are **$45 per person.**
Michigan Dinner Event

Date: Sunday, January 7, 2018
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Cost: $54 per person (includes dinner and 20 minute bus ride)
Location: Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville (downtown)

You won’t want to miss this opportunity to enjoy some great food and visit with other Farm Bureau members from Michigan. More details will be sent once you have registered.

MFB Staff will give an update on membership, YF contestants, and other organizational activities.

Reba McEntire to Keynote AFBF Annual

Iconic entertainer Reba McEntire is no stranger to agriculture—she grew up in rural Oklahoma on her family’s 8,000 acre ranch. Now, this multimedia mogul and mom is a household name with a successful career that spans across music, television, film, theater and retail.

Reba will join AFBF President Zippy Duvall during the Closing General Session on Monday, January 8, 2018, for a Q&A Keynote touching on her rural roots, family, career, and, of course, country music.

Reba McEntire’s latest album, a two-disc inspirational collection called Sing it Now: Songs of Faith and Hope (Nash Icon Records / Capitol Christian Music Group), topped both the Billboard Country & Christian/Gospel charts and marked her 13th summit to reaching a No. 1 selling album. Her iconic career has achieved a rare pinnacle with 35 No. 1 singles and over 56 million albums sold worldwide.

The Country Music Hall of Fame and Grand Ole Opry member has won 15 American Music Awards, 14 ACM Awards, 9 People’s Choice Awards, 7 CMA Awards and 2 Grammy Awards in addition to other prestigious accolades for her philanthropic endeavors and leadership.

The Oklahoma native is an acclaimed actress with 11 movie credits and her own six-season television sitcom, Reba. In 2001, she received critical acclaim for her Broadway debut starring in Irving Berlin's Annie Get Your Gun.

In 2005, Reba partnered with Dillard's to launch her own clothing line, and the lifestyle brand has since expanded into shoes, bedding and luggage.

As part of the longest-running Country act in The Colosseum's history with superstar pals Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn, "REBA, BROOKS & DUNN: Together In Vegas" is in its third year at Caesars.

Following last year’s limited release, Reba will widely deliver MY KIND OF CHRISTMAS on October 13 with new cover art, three additional songs featuring friends Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Darius Rucker and Lauren Daigle.
AFBF Agricultural and City Tours

Tennessee Farm Bureau is offering several tours during the 2018 AFBF Annual Convention in Nashville. Tours will be offered to registered attendees only (paid $100 registration fee) on both Saturday, January 6th and Tuesday, January 9th.

See attached tour information. To register for a tour, please call 1-800-424-5249 (Mon-Fri from 9:00 am - 5 pm) for Experient Travel which is a 3rd party company that AFBF uses. Before you can register for a tour, your registration form must be in our office. Please email (amsplitz@michfb.com) or fax (517-323-6558) for quicker response into Experient’s website. Please allow a few days for processing before calling to register for a tour. Payment by credit card is required when booking a tour. Tours do sell out quickly.

Fun Facts about Nashville

Although music influences virtually every aspect of modern life in the cosmopolitan city, Nashville has a diverse and storied history.

- Nashville was founded on Christmas Eve 1779.
- Captain William Driver, Nashville native, nicknamed the U.S. flag “Old Glory” in 1837.
- U.S. President Andrew Jackson’s Nashville home, The Hermitage, has a driveway shaped like a guitar.
- The AT&T Tower downtown is nicknamed the ‘Batman Building’ due to its resemblance of bat ears.
- Theodore Roosevelt coined the phrase ‘good to the last drop’ after drinking a cup of locally produced coffee in Nashville at the Maxwell House Hotel.
- Tennessee’s capital building is one of the oldest operating capitols in America and its tower is designed after the monument of Lysicrates in Athens, Greece.
- In 1941, Nashville was the first city in the country to be granted a FM-broadcasting license.
- Elvis recorded over 200 of his songs at RCA’s historic Studio B on Music Row. A string of Christmas lights still hangs in the studio to this day. These lights were put up when Elvis had a hard time getting in the holiday spirit while recording a Christmas album.

Foundation Night Out
Grand Ole Opry House

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is hosting a Foundation Night Out at the Grand Ole Opry House next to the Gaylord Opryland Hotel on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

This is a private concert for registered AFBF attendees only.

Cost is $70 per person.
The lineup includes:
* Wynonna Judd
* Jerrod Niemann
* Eric Paslay
**Airfare**

Attendees are responsible for their own flights. For best flight options to Nashville, contact your local travel agent or internet websites. Don’t wait until the last minute to book a ticket!

Most airline tickets are non-refundable and changes after purchase will incur a penalty, plus the difference in the fare if applicable. Please be sure to ask about cancellation and change policies when making your travel arrangements. In addition, please note that most airlines charge $20-$30 for all checked bags.

**Weather:** January averages a high of 46F and low of 28F.

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**Airport Transportation**

The Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center offers shuttle service to and from the Nashville International Airport and the Hotel. Cost is $19 one-way.

Taxi cabs are approximately $30 for a one-way trip. The airport is about 15 minutes from the hotel.

If you are driving and plan to park at the hotel, the cost is $29 per day.

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**Reservations**

To make your reservation for the Michigan Dinner Event ($54), AFBF Breakfast ($37), Leaders Luncheon ($45), 5K Run ($27.50), Foundation Night ($70) and registration fee ($100), please contact your county Farm Bureau or complete the attached Registration Form and enclose payment by December 1, 2017.

Your hotel reservation will be made at the Gaylord Opryland Resort. Please indicate your check-in and check-out dates on the form. Michigan Farm Bureau will make your hotel reservations, and will invoice the county Farm Bureau after the convention.

Tours are handled separately and should be booked by calling 1-800-424-5249 (Experient Travel).

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**Convention Registration Fee**

The registration fee is $100 per person. Children 17 and under are free. The fee includes Annual Meeting registration and admission to:

* AFBF IDEA Ag Tradeshow
* Opening & Closing General Sessions
* Young Farmer & Rancher Events
* Keynote Speaker -- Reba McEntire
* Over 40 Educational Workshops

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**Further Information**

For further information, contact Ann Marie Spitzley Michigan Farm Bureau at 517-679-5348, amspitzl@michfb.com Fax: 517-323-6558
**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

99th AFBF Annual Convention • January 5 – 10, 2018 • Nashville, TN

**Friday, January 5, 2018**
- 7:00 a.m. Convention Registration
- 5:00 p.m. YF&R Competitor Networking Reception
- 6:00 p.m. State Presidents’ Dinner

**Saturday, January 6, 2018**
- 6:30 a.m. Convention Registration
- 7:00 a.m. Farm to 5K
- 7:30 a.m. YF&R Excellence in Ag Competitor & Judges Orientation
  Women in Ag Meet-and-Greet Breakfast (all welcome)
- 8:30 a.m. Women’s Leadership Networking and Regional Caucuses
- 8:45 a.m. Ag Tours
- 9:00 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet Orientations
  YF&R Achieve & Apply Learning Session
  YF&R Excellence in Ag Presentations
  Farm Bureau Agriculture Investment Summit
- 10:30 a.m. Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Women
- 11:00 a.m. YF&R Discussion Meet Round 1
- 1:00 p.m. Communicate, Collaborate & Influence (CCI) Round 1
- 2:00 p.m. YF&R Discussion Meet Round 2 Room Announcement
- 2:30 p.m. Communicate, Collaborate & Influence (CCI) Round 2
  YF&R Discussion Meet Round 2
- 4:00 p.m. IDEAg Trade Show Opens
  Celebration of Grassroots Reception - IDEAg Trade Show
  YF&R Discussion Meet Sweet 16 & Achievement Award Top 10
  Forum hosted by the AFBWLC
- 5:30 p.m. IDEAg Trade Show Closes
Sunday, January 7, 2018

6:30 a.m.  Convention Registration
7:00 a.m.  Sunrise Service
7:45 a.m.  Flapjacks with the Foundation (ticketed event, all welcome)
9:30 a.m.  Opening General Session
10:30 a.m. IDEAg Trade Show Opens
10:45 a.m. YF&R Achievement Award Top 10 Interviews
11:00 a.m. Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge
12:00 p.m. Leadership Luncheon (ticketed event, all welcome)
1:15 p.m.  Concurrent Workshops
          YF&R Discussion Meet Sweet 16
2:30 p.m.  Concurrent Workshops
          Farm Bureau Agriculture Investment Pitch Session 1
3:30 p.m.  Concurrent Workshops
3:45 p.m.  Farm Bureau Agriculture Investment Pitch Session 2
4:30 p.m.  Workshop
          YF&R Discussion Meet Final 4 & Excellence in Ag Top 10
          Announcements
5:00 p.m.  GO Team Reception
5:30 p.m.  IDEAg Trade Show Closes
5:45 p.m.  YF&R Finalist & Sponsors Reception
6:00 p.m.  FB STARS (Staff Appreciation Reception)

6:00 p.m.  Michigan Dinner Event - Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville
Monday, January 8, 2018
7:00 a.m. Convention Registration
8:00 a.m. IDEAg Trade Show Opens
8:15 a.m. Concurrent Workshops
     YF&R Discussion Meet Final 4 - IDEAg Trade Show
9:15 a.m. Concurrent Workshops
10:15 a.m. Concurrent Workshops
11:15 a.m. Closing General Session
1:00 p.m. Taste of America – IDEAg Trade Show
     Forum hosted by the AFBF P&E Committee
3:00 p.m. IDEAg Trade Show Closes
7:30 p.m. Foundation Night Out (ticketed event, all welcome)

Tuesday, January 9, 2018
7:00 a.m. Post-convention Ag Tours
8:00 a.m. Annual Meeting of Voting Delegates
     Amendment Processing
     Spouses Event - Invitation Only
12:00 p.m. Voting Delegate Luncheon
1:00 p.m. Delegate Regional Caucuses
2:00 p.m. Voting Delegate Session

Wednesday January 10, 2018
7:00 a.m. AFBF Board of Directors’ Breakfast
8:00 a.m. AFBF Board of Directors’ Meeting