



**MICHIGAN
FARM BUREAU®**

MICHIGAN'S VOICE OF AGRICULTURE



2019-20 VOTE RECORD

2019-20 VOTE RECORD: STATE ISSUES



ENVIRONMENTAL OVERSIGHT

Michigan Farm Bureau requested a yes vote on House Concurrent Resolution 1.

The organization supported the Michigan Legislature voting to overturn Gov. Whitmer's Executive Order that would have abolished three environmental oversight panels advocated for by MFB in 2018.

The resolution was adopted in February 2019: 58-51 in the House, 22-16 in the Senate.

Score: 25 points



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS

Michigan Farm Bureau encouraged a yes vote on House Bill 4069 and Senate Bill 47.

The organization supported the legislation to clarify the tax classification for alternative energy systems and provide related tax exemptions. The new law prevents the installation, replacement, or repair of certain alternative energy systems from increasing the true cash value of a residential property. It also provides owners with a personal property tax credit for commercial or industrial use of certain alternative energy systems.

Both bills were signed into law in November 2019. HB 4069 passed 106-3 in the House, 36-0 in the Senate. SB 47 passed 107-1 in the House, 36-0 in the Senate.

Score: 5 points each



AGRICULTURAL DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM FUNDING

Michigan Farm Bureau asked for a yes vote on House Bill 4234.

The organization supported the appropriations bill providing \$15 million in state funds through the Agricultural Disaster Loan Origination Program, following an unprecedented cool and wet spring. Given certain qualifications, the program pays loan origination fees and provides lower interest rates for farmers during challenging times.

Signed into law in July 2019, the bill passed the House and Senate 99-6 and 34-1, respectively.

Score: 5 points



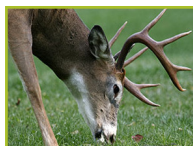
HORSE RACING

Michigan Farm Bureau encouraged a yes vote on House Bill 4310.

The organization supported the amendments to the state's horse racing law to allow advanced deposit wagering, meaning individuals can bet on horse races online or via cell phones through third-party facilitators that contract with licensed track owners.

Signed into law in December 2019, the House and Senate passed the bill 99-9 and 37-1, respectively.

Score: 15 points



FEEDING AND BAITING BAN

Michigan Farm Bureau requested a no vote on House Bill 4687.

The organization opposed the legislation that would have repealed the state's feeding and baiting ban.

Vetoed by the Governor in December 2019, the House and Senate passed the bill 61-44 and 21-14, respectively.

Score: 5 points



INSURANCE REFORMS

Michigan Farm Bureau asked for a yes vote on Senate Bill 1.

The organization supported the much-needed improvements to the state's no-fault auto insurance law. The updates:

- Allow consumers to choose their level of medical coverage,
- Implement a fee schedule to address overcharging for medical procedures, and
- Created a fraud authority to address fraud and abuse in auto insurance, which costs the average family hundreds of dollars a year in additional premiums.

Signed into law in May 2019, the House and Senate passed the bill 94-15 and 34-4, respectively.

Score: 10 points



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Michigan Farm Bureau encouraged a yes vote on Senate Bill 171.

The organization supports amending the Revised School Code to retain the foreign language flex credit and make it permanent by removing the expiration (sunset) originally included in the 2014 law. The bill ultimately allows greater opportunity for students to participate in career and technical education programs like agriscience.

Signed into law in September 2020, the House and Senate passed the bill 67-38 and 36-1, respectively.

Score: 25 points

2019-20 VOTE RECORD: STATE ISSUES



ANIMAL INDUSTRY ACT UPDATES

Michigan Farm Bureau encouraged a yes vote on Senate Bills 174, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183 and 361.

The organization supported the comprehensive updates to the state's animal agriculture laws, marking the first rewrite of the laws in more than 20 years.

Provisions within the seven-bill package that were directly referenced, or generally supported by MFB's grassroots-approved policy, include:

- Codifying a definition for animal welfare.
- Giving the state veterinarian authority to stop animal movement for up to 72 hours in the event of a major animal disease outbreak (after 72 hours they would need permission from the impacted animal industries).
- Updating the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development's (MDARD) ability to seize or destroy animals based on new biosecurity practices.
- Requiring the state veterinarian to serve as the authority for animal welfare oversight on livestock-related issues.
- Requiring the state veterinarian to develop and enforce laws and rules pertaining to the health and welfare of animals.
- Adding required information when exporting animals from Michigan and exclude the Department of Natural Resources from importation requirements of potentially diseased species.
- Basing indemnification upon 100% of the fair market value on the appraisal date and marketability for the purpose for which the livestock was intended.
- Allowing the MDARD director to require biosecurity and wildlife risk mitigation measures for future indemnification

The legislation was signed into law in November 2019. Individual votes were as follows:

- SB 174 passed 74-36 in the House, 33-3 in the Senate.
- SB 179 passed 104-6 in the House, 38-0 in the Senate.

- SB 180 passed 107-3 in the House, 38-0 in the Senate.
- SB 181 passed 106-4 in the House, 38-0 in the Senate.
- SB 182 passed 107-3 in the House, 38-0 in the Senate.
- SB 183 passed 107-3 in the House, 38-0 in the Senate.
- SB 361 passed 106-4 in the House, 38-0 in the Senate.

Score: SB 174 - 25 points; SB 179, 180, 181, 182 183 and 361 - 2 points each



SUGAR BEET JUICE FOR DEICING

Michigan Farm Bureau encouraged a yes vote on Senate Bill 379.

The organization supports the bill to require the Michigan Department of Transportation to implement a pilot program on the use of organic additives, such as sugar beet juice, to control ice on public roads, highways, and bridges.

Signed into law in December 2020, the House and Senate passed the bill 98-3 and 36-1, respectively.

Score: 5 points



AGRICULTURAL DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM POLICY UPDATES

Michigan Farm Bureau requested a yes vote on Senate Bill 693.

The organization supported the legislation to amend the Agricultural Disaster Loan Origination Program by defining a qualified loss to mean a reduction of gross revenue from any agricultural commodity after receipt of any insurance proceeds or other reimbursements as a result of the same crop loss.

The bill also made technical changes to the payment terms from Treasury to participating lenders, sets the interest rate at the 5-year U.S. Treasury note, plus 2%, and extends the loan terms to seven years.

Finally, the bill clarified that for the appropriations from PA 45 of 2019 (HB 4234), loans will be distributed after March 1, 2020 and before June 1, 2020.

Signed into law in March 2020, the House and Senate passed the bill 102-2 and 35-1, respectively.

Score: 5 points

*IMPORTANT NOTE:

Representatives Julie Alexander, Roger Hauck, Sarah Lightner, Mike Mueller and Senators Ed McBroom and Dan Lauwers abstained from votes on House Bill 4234 and Senate Bill 693 due to a potential personal conflict of interest.

Their abstentions are marked with an asterisk: NV*

2019-20 VOTE RECORD: FEDERAL ISSUES



MINIMUM WAGE (HOUSE-ONLY)

Michigan Farm Bureau requested a no vote on House Resolution 582, the Raise the Wage Act.

The organization opposed the bill what would have raised the minimum wage. H.R. 582 passed the House in July 2019 and awaits consideration by the U.S. Senate.

Score: 10 points



FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT (HOUSE-ONLY)

Michigan Farm Bureau asked for a no vote on a rule-related vote for consideration of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, House Resolution 5038.

The rule prohibited members of Congress from offering amendments supported by the American Farm Bureau Federation. Currently, there has been no further action.

Score: 10 points



DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS

Michigan Farm Bureau encouraged a yes vote on House Resolution 2157, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, that provided additional funds for disaster programs administered by USDA.

The legislation included \$3 billion in farm disaster assistance, including assistance for those who were impacted by the spring flooding of 2019. It also included the income waiver for Market Facilitation Program payments.

The funding bill was signed into law by President Trump in June 2019. Two votes occurred in the U.S. House: initial passage and final passage, following the Senate's approval.

Score: House initial passage - 10 points, House final passage – 20 points, Senate passage – 25 points



DEBT LIMIT INCREASE

Michigan Farm Bureau requested a yes vote on House Resolution 2336, the Family Farmer Relief Act.

This bill increased the debt limit for family farmers seeking to reorganize under Chapter 12 bankruptcy to \$10 million from an adjusted \$4.4 million.

The bill was signed into law in August 2019. Senate passage was not scored because it was taken as a voice vote.

Score: 5 points



CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY (HOUSE-ONLY)

Michigan Farm Bureau asked for a no vote on House Resolution 2513, the

Corporate Transparency Act.

The legislation would have required small business owners to report beneficial ownership information.

The bill passed the U.S. House in October 2019 and was sent to the Senate for consideration. Currently, there has been no further action.

Score: 10 points



USDA RURAL E-CONNECTIVITY

Michigan Farm Bureau encouraged a yes vote on House Resolution 3055, the Further Continuing Appropriations

Act 2020 and Further Health Extenders Act.

The legislation included an amendment to increase funding for USDA's Rural E-Connectivity Program, which is important for rural broadband expansion.

The bill was signed into law in November 2019.

Score: 10 points



FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

Michigan Farm Bureau asked for a yes vote on House Resolution 4378, the Continuing Appropriations Act and Health Extenders Act.

The final passage of the resolution included maintenance of the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation, which funds the Market Facilitation Payment Program.

The bill was signed into law in September 2019.

Score: 20 points



USMCA IMPLEMENTATION

Michigan Farm Bureau requested a yes vote on House Resolution 5430, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Implementation Act.

The bill implemented the USMCA trade agreement that locks in market opportunities with Mexico and Canada. It provides new market access for dairy and poultry products and maintains the zero-tariff platform on all other agriculture products. The legislation also includes measures that address cooperation, information sharing and other trade rules among the three nations related to agricultural biotechnology and gene editing. Further, it reduces trade-distorting policies, increases transparency and ensures non-discriminatory treatment of ag products among the three nations.

The bill was signed into law in January 2020.

Score: 25 points

2019-20 VOTE RECORD: FEDERAL ISSUES



BROADBAND MAPPING

Michigan Farm Bureau encouraged a yes vote on Senate Resolution 1822, the Broadband DATA Act. The legislation requires broadband providers to report more specific

data to create a significantly more accurate and granular National Broadband Map.

The bill was signed into law in March 2020.

Score: U.S. House - 5 points, U.S. Senate – 10 points



AGRICULTURE BORDER INSPECTIONS

Michigan Farm Bureau asked for a yes vote on Senate Resolution 2107, the Protecting America's Food &

Agriculture Act.

The legislation is intended to ensure the safe and secure trade of food and agriculture across our nation's borders by properly staffing ports of entry with trained agricultural inspection personnel.

The bill was signed into law in March 2020.

Score: U.S. House - 5 points, U.S. Senate – 10 points



SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS (SENATE-ONLY)

Michigan Farm Bureau requested a yes vote on House Resolution 268, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act.

The procedural vote was to end debate on legislation to provide funding for farmers impacted by natural disasters.

Score: 10 points

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