



MICHIGAN FOUNDATION FOR
AGRICULTURE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**Can you imagine a world
where agriculture is
valued by everyone?**

We can.



OUR MISSION

Positively contribute to the future
of Michigan agriculture through leadership
and educational programming.

Message from the Chair

Dear Supporters of the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture,

As we begin another year, let's take a moment to reflect on the incredible progress we've made together in supporting agriculture education and literacy across Michigan. We are proud to share the strides we've made over the past twelve months, empowering teachers and students with vital resources that enhance their understanding of agriculture and its relevance to our daily lives. Your support is vital to this work. Thank you.



Within the pages of this report, you'll find highlights of the impact that you are helping make throughout our communities. One of our standout achievements has been the expansion of the FARM Science Programs. The FARM Science Van and our two FARM Science Labs regularly travel to schools across the state, bringing hands-on, agriculture-focused (and FUN) lessons to thousands of students. We're proud to work with teachers in dozens of districts, spark curiosity and excitement within our youth, and inspire conversations they can continue within their own homes. Because of volunteers, advocates, and supporters like you, we're thrilled to have reached more teachers and students than ever before with these programs.

This past year, we also supported a dedicated County Agriculture in the Classroom Specialist in Ottawa County, continued delivery of FARM Crates for K-5 grade classrooms, and provided even more leadership development opportunities for young farmers, investing in their skills and confidence as future leaders.

None of this would have been possible without our generous individual donors, committed corporate partners, and dedicated, passionate volunteers. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support of this purpose. Together, we are shaping the future of agriculture in Michigan and beyond.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this momentum, continuing to inspire young minds and enrich agriculture programs and education. Be sure to follow Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom on Facebook, visit [MichFB.com](https://michfb.com) or email MFA@michfb.com to stay connected. We'd love to hear from you!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben LaCross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "B" and "L".

Ben LaCross

*President of Michigan Farm Bureau and
Michigan Foundation for Agriculture Board Chair*



AGRICULTURAL LITERACY IMPACT

Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom impacted 106,311 students and 3,184 teachers in 1,545 Michigan schools in 2024 through the following programs.

FARM Science Lab



Two 40-foot mobile classrooms, tooled with STEM-based lessons and aligned with science and agricultural literacy standards.



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



19,137
Students



853
Teachers



46
Schools



29
Counties

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



FARM Science Van



A new delivery model, delivering hands-on FARM Science Lab lessons to students right in their classrooms.



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



2,892
Students



136
Teachers



21
Schools



20
Counties

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



FARM Crates



Hands-on, educational subscription boxes, delivered to K-5th grade classrooms across the state during the school year.



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



3,141 Crates
and Refill Kits
Shipped



78,525
Students



1,478
Schools



65
Counties

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



Gerber.



Educator Professional Developments

Training and resources provided to pre-service high school and college students studying education as well as current educators



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



500 Current
Teachers



4 Trainings
& Conferences

Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom County Specialist

Contract educator who visits classrooms and career fairs, hosts regional teacher professional development sessions and works with volunteers to lead student outreach activities throughout Ottawa County.



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

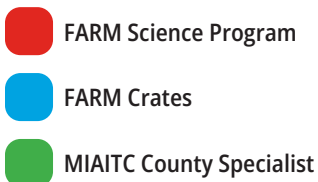
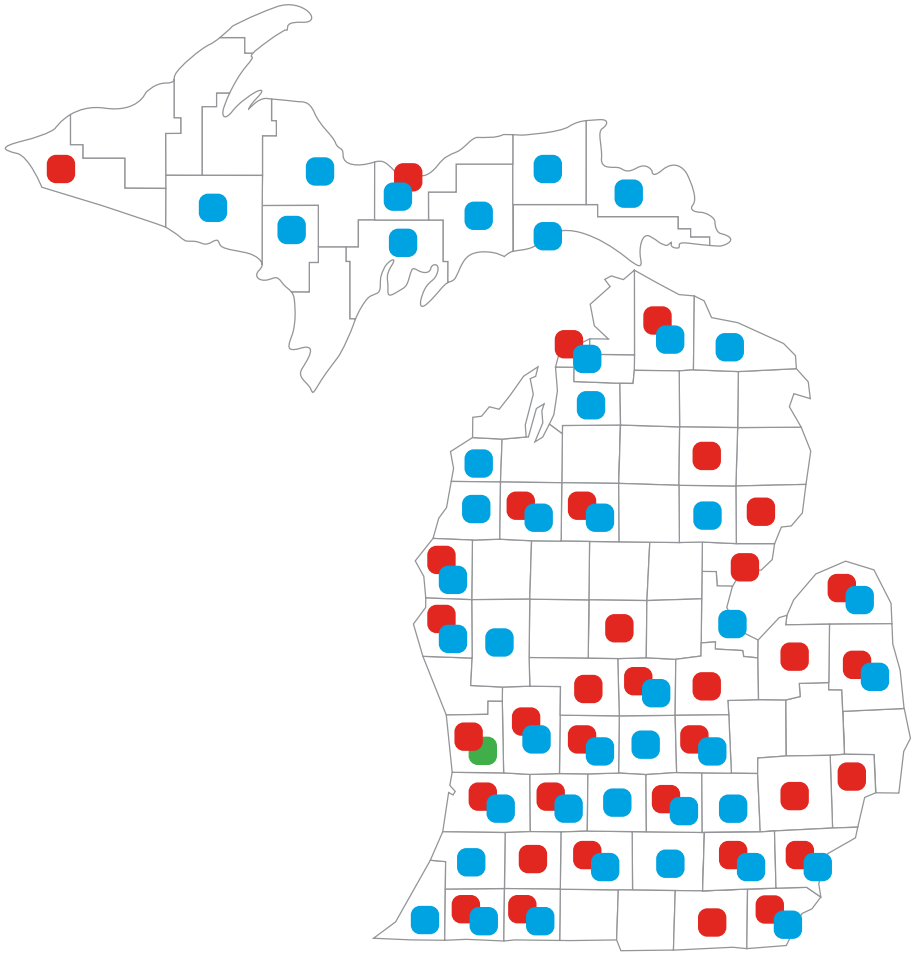


5,757
Students



217
Teachers

Agricultural Literacy Program Reach To Date



Two Years Down, One to Go



Thank you for coming alongside us to support our three-year pilots of...

- **FARM SCIENCE LAB**
- **FARM SCIENCE VAN**
- **FARM CRATES**
- **MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM COUNTY SPECIALIST**

We've spent the last year working on evaluations to measure the effectiveness of each of these pilots and launching our brand-new FARM Science Van. We're still looking for strategic partners to make these pilots a reality and look forward to sharing what we're learning as they progress and culminate in 2025.

"We had such a great experience, and my Young 5 students LOVED IT! Thank you so much for teaching them about farms and what we grow in Michigan!"

LOREN EYLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"The crates are educational and fun at the same time. So many important agriculture topics are taught."

JEN NICHOLS, 1ST GRADE TEACHER

Lake City Elementary



AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP IMPACT

Michigan Foundation for Agriculture programs delivered leadership development opportunities to 493 members and young leaders from 63 county Farm Bureaus in 2024.

High School and Collegiate



Building skills for career readiness, leadership opportunities and advocacy for agriculture.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

- **124 students** from **34 counties** competed in **six regional High School Discussion Meets**.
- **8 Collegiate Farm Bureau members** from our **13 collegiate chapters** competed in the Collegiate Discussion Meet.
- **440 pails** were distributed to high school students through county Farm Bureaus' efforts.
- **38 FFA chapters and Collegiate Farm Bureau members** shared consumer messages through #SpeakAgMichigan.

Promotion & Education



Preparing agriculture leaders to be the active voice for agriculture while educating consumers about our industry.

In 2024, Michigan Farm Bureau launched resources, templates, and a grant initiative to encourage county Farm Bureaus to conduct adult-focused consumer outreach to build relationships along the farm-to-fork path.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

- **59 counties** received grants
- **489 Farm Bureau volunteers** were involved
- **61,451 non-member children** participated
- **45,949 non-member adults** participated

Young Farmers



Developing 18-35-year-old agriculture leaders for service in their county Farm Bureaus and communities.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

- **80 young farmers** competed in District Discussion Meets.
- **42 young farmers** from **26 counties**, submitted award applications.
- **239 members** attending Young Farmer Leaders Conference.
- **648 participants** in Young Farmer Facebook Group.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



"Opportunities in leadership in Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) are widely accessible due to the support of the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture (MFA). Through Young Farmer activities, Discussion Meet and award programs, I was able to gain life-changing leadership experiences. The people I have met in Michigan and beyond have expanded my thinking and challenged me to explore new perspectives. My most impactful experience was in ProFile. The people, places and ideas I was introduced to during that program influence me now as I chair the state Promotion and Education Committee(P&E). Through my role within P&E, I see the impact that MFA has had on our volunteers in providing improved access to resources. This ultimately improves our effectiveness in sharing Agriculture's story to the students, schools and communities across Michigan."

ALYSA SANFORD

P&E Representative, MFB State Board





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None of the efforts included in this report would be possible without the support of our generous donors. Support equates to greater opportunities to share agriculture's impact on our daily lives and development of leaders.

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*To learn more and get involved, visit michfb.com/mfa
or email us at MFA@michfb.com.*