



**KENT COUNTY
FARM BUREAU®**

2025 IMPACT REPORT

What We Do

Kent County Farm Bureau is an agricultural organization whose mission is to proactively secure the future of agriculture through promotion, community enhancement, and public education.

Who We Are

We are the largest general farming organization in the county. Kent County Farm Bureau members are volunteers with a passion for agriculture. We are farmers, landowners, agritourism entrepreneurs, veterinarians, ag educators, ag industry professionals and more!

Local programming is directed by our volunteer board of directors:

- **President:** Bruce Klamer
- **VP:** Bryan Heffron
- **3rd Member** Nicole Zaagman
- Allan Robinette – Young Farmer Co-Chair
- Emily Kropf – Young Farmer Co-Chair
- Annie Link – Promotion & Education Chair
- Ryan Alt
- Carlton Blough
- Scott Drown
- Laurie Pant
- John Schut

Board members are elected each year at our County Annual Meeting in September.

Membership by the Numbers

- We represent over **1,100** farming families.
- **170** member families participated in programming throughout the year (**15** more than last year!).
- **171** Young Farmer (18–35-year-old) members belong to the organization.

2025-2026 Priorities

- Growing the number of members who take advantage of networking, education, and advocacy opportunities.
- Encouraging our county FFA chapters through grants, by supporting the teachers with networking opportunities, supporting the students by buying their animals at the Kent County Youth Fair, and letting them know about the wide variety of careers in agriculture.
- Continuing to work with community partners to serve our members and educate our community about the value of agriculture in Kent County by:
 - supporting the Kent County Youth Fair through our 3-year \$750,000 matching grant that enabled them to raise over \$2 million for Raising Barns Building Youth so far
- Addressing the rural mental health crisis by hosting conversations and trainings by Ian Hill that include community leaders, high school students, and Farm Bureau members.
- Advocating on behalf of agriculture with legislators—local, state, and national.

President's Report

This was my first year as President of the Board of Directors. I see my role as less setting the agenda for our Farm Bureau and more getting the Directors energized to work towards their visions of what Kent County Farm Bureau can be and do. The goal setting meeting with Directors and spouses was a highlight of this year. They brought forward so many exciting ideas, some we've already implemented, some will take more time, but we have a great roadmap moving forward. Some more highlights of this year:

- *Educational impact on the children of Kent County through the Farm Kid Safety Day, FARM Crates in classrooms, the Scavenger Hunt and buying projects at the auctions at Kent County Youth Fair, and the Rapid River Farm activities at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum.*
- *We didn't just financially sponsor the activities at the Children's Museum, we educated their curriculum specialists about Kent County agriculture, teaching them things that were directly reflected in the activities and signage they designed.*
- *Two years ago, we made a big pledge to match up to \$750,000 over three years to the Kent County Youth Agricultural Association. In two years, they've leveraged that pledge to raise over \$2.6 million.*
- *Partnering with Wilbur-Ellis again to recycle tires. Our Scrap Tire Cleanup grant from EGLE enabled us to expand the program and remove 3,359 tires from the environment.*
- *Winning the **2025 District 4 Grassroots Champion of Excellence Award** for the Farm Kid Safety Day.*

Bruce Klamer, President, Kent County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Our Impact



3,698

Number of community members impacted by events/programs.



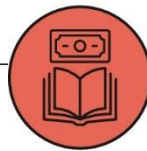
275,000

Dollars provided to sponsor local organizations or community events.



7,500

Dollars provided in scholarships to local students.



25,000

Dollars donated to agriculture literacy efforts.



37

Number of members who participated in Michigan Farm Bureau statewide or national programming or events.



12

Number of elected officials reached through local events.

Visit the county's website and Facebook page to stay up to date on events and activities:
michfb.com/kent | <https://www.facebook.com/kentcountyfarmbureau>