

# Meet the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors Candidates

While setting organizational policy will be a top priority for the 400-plus voting delegates at Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting, Dec. 2-3, they'll also be casting their ballots for two at-large MFB board of director positions for two-year terms, six district positions (odd-numbered districts), one Young Farmer representative and one Promotion & Education representative.

The MFB Board of Directors is made up of 17 farmer members, including one director from each of MFB's 12 districts, two at-large positions, a Young Farmer representative, a Promotion & Education representative, and the president in a director at-large capacity.

The MFB board is responsible for executing and carrying out member-adopted policies on issues affecting agriculture, and governing and overseeing management of the association, including the organization's financial matters.

The deadline for candidates to announce their candidacy was Nov. 5, 2025. The following candidates have attested that they do not serve in a county, state, or national elective office, and provide the following statement describing how they meet the MFB bylaw qualifications for directors to be "directly and actively engaged in farming as owners and/or operators of farms whose primary interest is in farming."



## Abe Pasch

*At-Large \**

ISABELLA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

I am a fourth-generation dairy farmer from Isabella County, and farm with two of my cousins. My wife Misty and I have raised our four children on our family centennial farm, and our youngest daughter is a senior at Beal City High School. We grow corn and alfalfa for our cows as well as wheat and soybeans on 1400 acres. I serve on our Township Board of Review, and I am a trustee of the local Knights of Columbus. I graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Agribusiness Management. I have been involved with Farm Bureau for over 20 years. I am a past president for Isabella County Farm Bureau. I have also served as Membership Chair, Promotion and Education chair, Candidate Evaluation Committee, and Policy Development chair. I have served on the MFB Policy Development Committee, the State Young Farmer Committee, and I am an MFB ProFILE graduate. In our spare time, we help out kids with animals for the 4-H fair who don't have their own facilities.



## Paul Pridgeon

*At-Large \**

BRANCH COUNTY FARM BUREAU

I farm with my brother Brian, my father, and my uncle, on a seventh-generation farrow to finish hog and crop farm in Branch county. I attended Central Michigan University where I received a business degree in finance and then earned my MBA from MSU. My wife Nikki and I are raising three daughters on the farm. My family believes it is important to serve in organizations that are meaningful to our family and community, one being Michigan Farm Bureau. My grandfather Dean and my uncle Mike both served on the MFB Board in various roles. They helped ensure that Farm Bureau was serving the ever changing needs of its members so Farm Bureau could serve the next generation, which is my goal as well.



## Larry Walton

*District 1 Director \**

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FARM BUREAU

My wife Angie, 2 daughters and I live near Centreville in St. Joseph County, where we farm a total of 500 acres. We are an irrigated row-crop operation growing seed corn, commercial corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa.



## Michael Fusilier

*District 3 Director \**

WASHTENAW COUNTY FARM BUREAU

My wife Kathy, 2 of my sons and I own and operate a 300 acre farm in SW Washtenaw County. We have over an acre of greenhouses for flower production, 2 acres of high tunnels, and we grow produce. We have 3 LLC/partnerships with the boys to market our product through our farm stand and home delivery, and to raise our row crops.



## Stephanie Schafer

*District 5 Director \**

CLINTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

My husband Leroy and I have a dairy farm in Clinton County. We milk approximately 300 cows and grow corn, wheat, soybeans, and alfalfa on 500 acres of land. We also have a custom large square baling business.



## Michael DeRuiter

*District 7 Director \**

OCEANA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

I am a 3rd generation fruit farmer from Hart, MI in Oceana County. My family farm, DeRuiter Farms, Inc., farms roughly 1,000 acres of tart cherries, apples, and peaches. We also operate a small tart cherry processing facility that runs during the tart cherry season. We have also done custom processing and custom harvesting from time to time as well during the tart cherry season. I am currently the Vice President of DeRuiter Farms, Inc.



## Dan Volger

*District 9 Director \**

WEXFORD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

I own Harrietta Hills Trout Farm LLC in partnership with my parents. We operate the largest commercial aquaculture farm in Michigan. We produce rainbow trout for food and also for retail pond stocking. We also offer pond management goods and services to help people manage private water.



## Patrick McGuire

*District 11 Director \**

ANTRIM COUNTY FARM BUREAU

My wife Sara and I own and operate Royal Farms in Atwood. We farm with our nephew (Nathan), daughter (Emma) and son (Ryan). We have a Farm Market and Winery located on US 31 in Atwood. We farm fruit (Apples, Cherries and Grapes) and Grains (Corn, Rye, Oats, and Straw). The Farm is located in Antrim County in District 11.



## Sarah Zastrow

*Young Farmer Committee Chair*

MIDLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU

My husband and I farm about 2,000 acres of corn and soybeans in Midland and Saginaw Counties. We also have a large garden and couple of roadside produce stands and deliver to a local grocery store. We sell a variety of fruits, vegetables, sweet corn, eggs, maple syrup, fall decor, etc. I travel to several farm conferences per year and speak about farm stress, rural mental health, and mindset. Additionally, I am an adjunct health and nutrition professor at a local community college and work a few hours per week helping my mom at her physical therapy clinic.



## Alysa Sanford

*Promotion & Education Committee Chair \**

JACKSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

My husband and I have a cash crop and pumpkin farm in the northwest corner of Jackson County. I have been involved in Farm Bureau and Promotion and Education for almost 25 years.

\* INCUMBENT