



Michigan Farm Bureau 101



House Agriculture Policy Committee



Michigan Farm Bureau

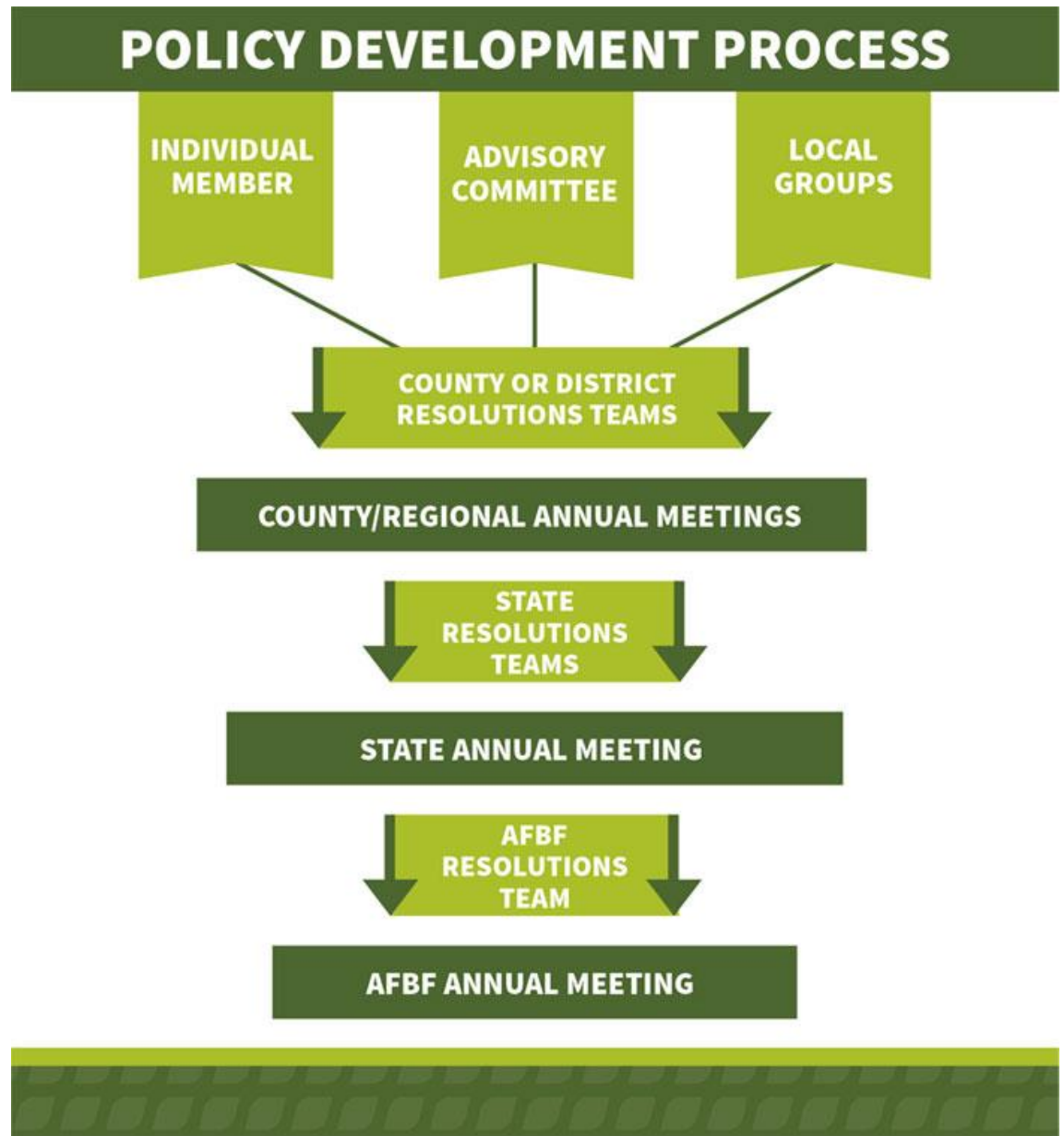
- Founded February 4, 1919
- State's Largest General Farm Organization
- Represents all agriculture
- More than 41,000 farmer members



- Grassroots, member driven
- Develop policy direction annually
- County Farm Bureaus
- Young Farmer Program
- Promotion & Education
- Political Action & Policy



Policy Development Process



Promotion and Education

- Ag-in-the-Classroom
- In-service Education for Teachers
- Safety Programs
- Project R.E.D. (Rural Education Day)
- Farm Tours
- Conducting activities at local fairs
- Adopt a classroom



FARM science lab

FARM
Food, Agriculture & Resources in Motion
Science Lab



FARM crates

- Each FARM crate includes:
- Lesson Plan
- Worksheets
- Agriculturally Accurate Book
- Themed Agricultural Magazines
- Virtual Farm Tour
- Teacher Gift
- Hands-on Activity



Michigan Agriculture Facts

- The food and agriculture industry contributes over \$100 billion annually to the state's economy.
- Michigan's food and agriculture system employs approx. 923,000, which accounts for about 22 percent of the state's workforce.
- Michigan produces over 300 types of agricultural commodities





**For Purpose
Mission – To End
Childhood Hunger**





FB
FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE
(781) 788-1670
Monday - Friday
9am - 5:00pm

SOUTH MICHIGAN
FOOD BANK

NOTICE

Ag Industry Workforce and Talent

- Promoting agricultural careers and education!
- Agricultural Safety Programs
 - Farm Hazard Assessment
 - Safety best practices
 - Emergency Planning
- Interagency Migrant Services Committee (IMSC)
- MDARD Migrant Labor Housing Advisory Board



Worker Training Grants

- Farms and the agri-food system need labor
 - Specific certifications
- Evident during the pandemic
- Support one-time investments in talent development



Photo: Michigan State University

Agricultural Workforce



Michigan farms work through LEO programs to try to recruit workers for many seasonal jobs

- Such positions currently pay over \$17/hour
- Many remain unfilled



Michigan Farm Bureau has started a separate company to help farms use the H-2A guest worker program to help fill remaining vital seasonal needs.

MICHIGAN'S VOICE OF AGRICULTURE



Farm Ho

- High quality farmworker housing
- Overall housing need around the state
 - Greater in rural areas
 - Exacerbated by the pandemic
- Support concept proposed in FY 24 budget
 - \$15 million MSHDA
- More is needed to build new and renovate older housing

Environmental Stewardship

- Water Quality and Use
 - MAEAP Advisory Council
 - Water Use Advisory Council
 - National, State and Local
 - USDA programs
 - Conservation Districts
 - Watershed groups and more!
- Climate and ecosystem services markets
 - Education on opportunities
 - Information and contracting assistance





The SESMA Initiative

SECURING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE

- Based on successful Project GREEN model
 - Collaboration between industry, MDARD and MSU
 - Generated over \$2 billion impact
- Targeted long-term research, outreach and education efforts to further enhance Michigan's status as a leader in environmental sustainability
 - Bolster soil and plant health
 - Soil carbon sequestration
 - Protection of water quality
 - Efficient water use
 - Development and deployment of precision technologies



Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Concept

- Connecting existing farmers wanting to exit the industry with a beginning farmer wanting to enter
- Many other state utilize a beginning farmer program through bonds, tax credits etc.

Thank you