



MICHIGAN SOYBEAN
PROMOTION COMMITTEE

a new release



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Michigan Soybean Farmers Sponsor Young Farmer Events

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC) is proud to sponsor several Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) Young Farmer Events for yet another year. "These events give young farmer members a chance to network with peers across the state," says Lori Chamberlain, Young Farmer Manager at MFB. "The activities provide comfortable settings where young farmers can hear about innovative ideas from other farmers and see how different farms operate." These events give MSPC a chance to talk with these young farmers about soybeans and their importance to Michigan's economy as well as several leadership opportunities that exist within the soybean industry. Events are held typically within Districts as defined by MFB. For a MFB district map, visit <http://www.michfb.com/youngfarmers/committee>.

March 5 – Safety Day hosted by the Voisinet Farm in Laingsburg (District 5). The MFB Young Farmers were informed of the safety techniques they should use to help make their farms safer. Some topics included youth employment, ag fatalities, pesticide information, local issues, and transportation regulations.

March 25 – DOT Seminar hosted by the Russell Farm in Akron (District 6). The MFB Young Farmers interacted with the Michigan Department of Transportation weighmaster to conduct a walkthrough covering what needs to be inspected and maintained on an annual basis in order to pass a recertification. She instructed ways to inspect and service farm semi trucks prior to their annual inspections.

June 18-19 – Ag Tour & Cookout (District 1, 3, & 6). Tours from Southeast to Southwest Michigan will take place for the young farmers to learn about the diversity of Michigan agriculture. Plans for possible farm stops include a hydroponic greenhouse, seed corn plant, winery and vineyard, large-scale blueberry and cranberry operation, and a dairy and grain operation.

July 8 – Night at the Races in the Upper Peninsula (District 11). Young farmers will meet in Norway, Michigan at the Norway Speedway. They will have the opportunity to network and converse about farming and farming related topics.

August 6 – Pure Michigan Expo Tent and 5K Walk/Run Race in Alma (District 8). The tent and race will be held during the Gratiot County Fair for Youth in Alma. The race will provide farm facts for participants to read while walking or running. Following the race, the Pure Michigan Expo will help the young farmers connect with the participants in the race to help put a face on agriculture.

August 27 – Farm Tour and Picnic in Fremont (District 7). Young farmers will tour Karmatt's Farm in Fremont, a vegetable, sod, and horticulture farm. The tour will be followed by a delicious meal and a fun bowling activity.

Summer of 2011 – Ag Diversity Tours (District 2). A diversity tour will be held in each of the counties in MFB District 2: Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson, and Lenawee at dates yet undetermined. The tours will consist of unique crop or livestock production and progressive management practices. Some examples might include specialty crops (tomatoes, seed corn/beans, potatoes, peppers, etc.), a farm utilizing seeding/fertilizing technologies, conservation practices such as cover crops, and twin rows or narrow rows. The possibilities are endless!

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