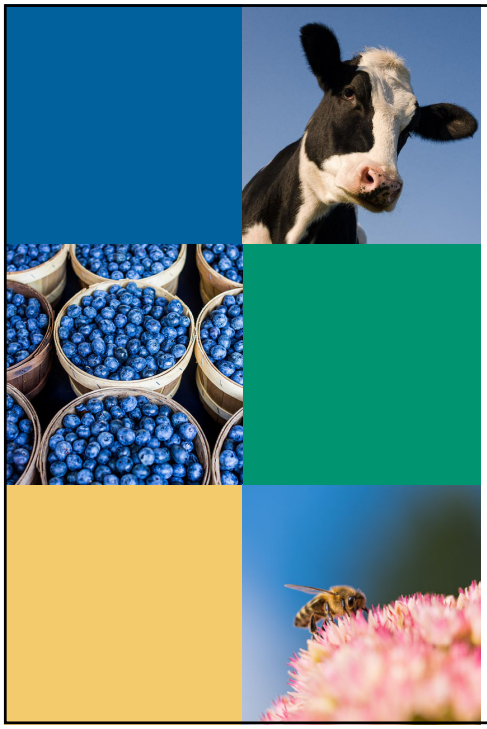

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Overview

Dr. Tim Boring, Department Director
Sylvia Renteria, Director of Finance & Budget
Mikaylah Heffernan, Legislative Liaison

May 14, 2025

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

1

Michigan's Food and Agriculture Industry

- 44,000 Farms in Michigan
- 200 Commodities Produced
- 214 Average Farm Acreage
- 97% Family-owned Farms
- 56.5 Average Farmer Age

1st PLACE — State Ranking for Production of Asparagus, Black and Small Red Dry Beans, Tart Cherries, Squash, and Pickling Cucumbers.

2nd PLACE — State Ranking for Production of Apples, All Dry Beans, All Cucumbers, and Navy Beans.

- Contributes nearly $126 billion to Michigan's economy annually
- $3 billion in exports
- $30+ billion in food processing
- 18,000+ licensed food processors, warehouse, and retailers
- Employs 805,000+ Michigan residents
- 5.2 million gallons of craft beverage produced

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

2

FY 2026 Budget Goals Executive Recommendation

- Lowering costs
- Creating jobs
- Supporting our seniors
- Protecting and defending Michiganders
- Making government work better

3

About MDARD

Mission

Assure the food safety, agricultural, environmental and economic interests of the people of the State of Michigan are met through service, partnership, and collaboration.

Priorities

- Climate resiliency and regenerative agriculture
- Diversity in agricultural production
- Economic prosperity across Michigan
- Best place to work

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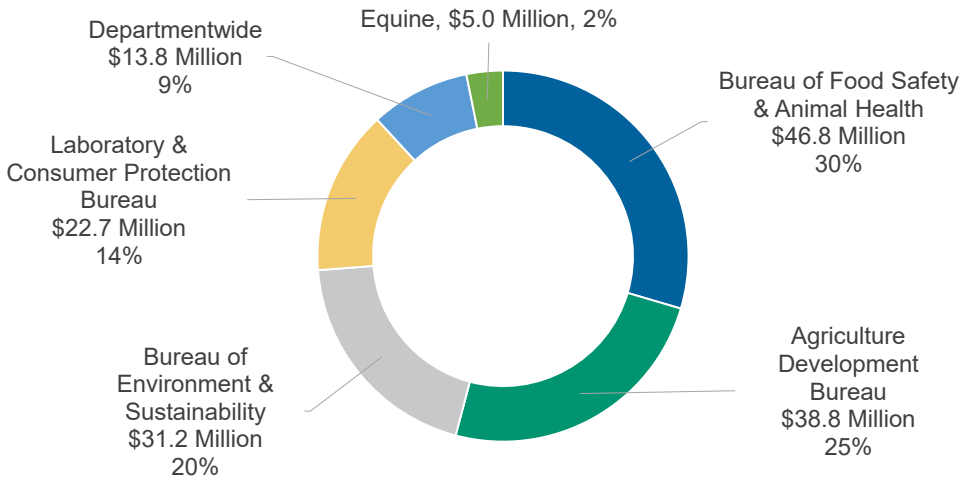
MDARD in Context

Agricultural Development	County Fair & Commodity Group Support	Supply Chain Investment	Farm-to-Family Program
Environment and Sustainability	Right to Farm Program	MAEAP Program	Regenerative Agriculture
Food Safety and Animal Health	Emergency Response	Food Safety	Disease Mitigation
Laboratory and Consumer Protection	Weights and Measures	Animal Feed	Fuel Quality

5

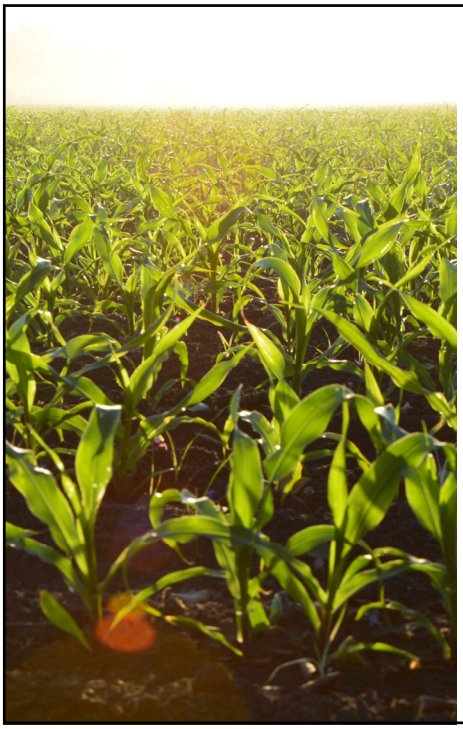
FY26 Executive Recommended MDARD Budget



Federal Funds
13% | $20.1 million
General Funds
54% | $85.9 million
Restricted Funds
33% | $52.3 million

Total: $158.3M (0.18% of total state budget)

6



FY 2026 Investments

7

Protecting Michigan's Food Supply

$5.5 million proposed

- Mitigate impact of disease outbreaks on Michigan agricultural industry
- Support industry-wide implementation of biosecurity measures

8

Plant, Soil, Pest Diagnostics

$1.6 million proposed

- Support farmers and increase Michigan's economic competitiveness
- Increase testing capacity and support services for:
  - Plant diseases
  - Soil health
  - Invasive species detection

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Photo Source: Lakeview Hill Farm & Market

Rural Prosperity

$2.0 million proposed

- Promote sustainability of the agricultural industry
- Funding focused on the following:
  - Infrastructure Development
  - Rural Capacity Building
  - Business Development
  - Talent Development and Training

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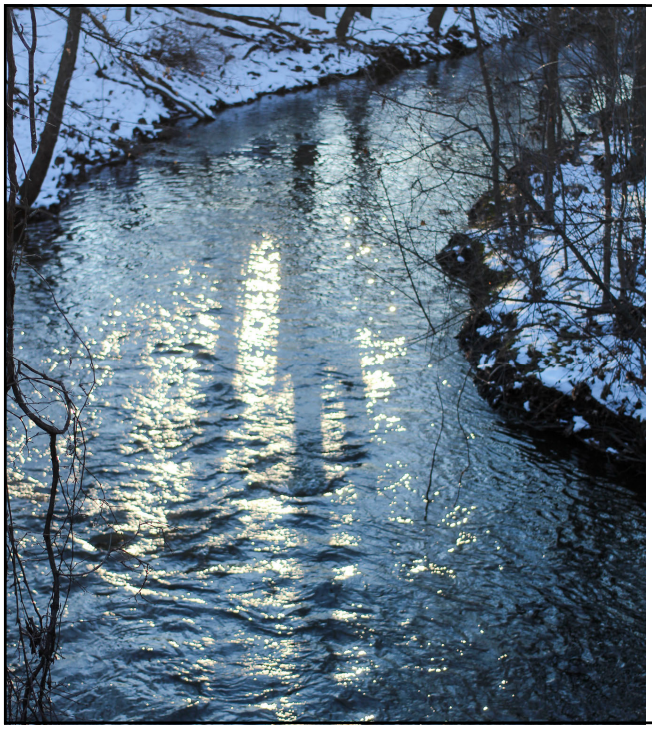

Freshwater Protection Fund

- Sunsets December 31, 2025
- Funds MAEAP program, environmental technical assistance and training, conservation district support
- Assessed on pesticides and fertilizers

Michigan Department of AGRICULTURE & Rural Development

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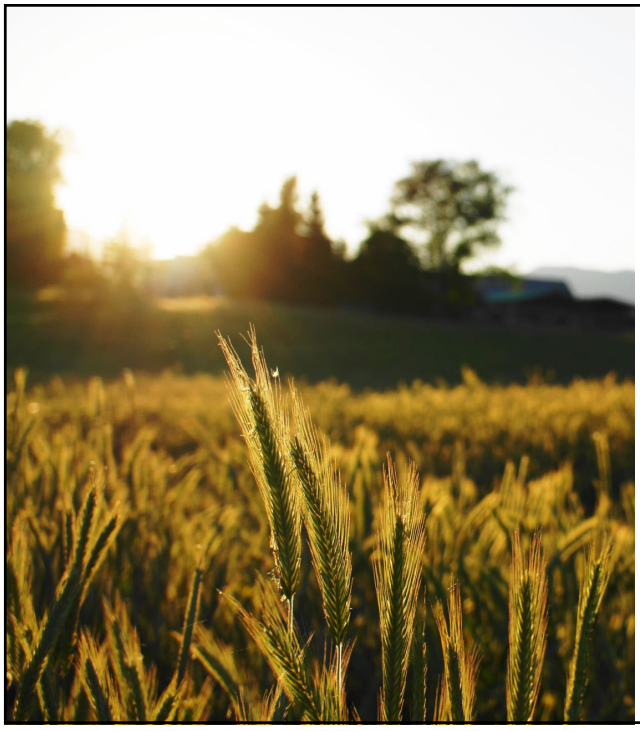

Thank you!

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