



AgBioResearch
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Extension
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Agricultural Resiliency Program

Positioning agricultural industries to thrive in the face of increasingly extreme weather is a 21st century grand challenge globally. The Agricultural Resiliency Program addresses Michigan agriculture's need to be better prepared and equipped to be part of the solution to address long-term challenges with water and extreme weather.

The first year of the program was funded in FY24 through MDARD's budget at a recurring investment of \$1 million for related faculty and Extension positions and a \$5 million non-recurring investment for a competitive grants program. In addition to the \$1 million in recurring funds, the program will receive \$5.1 million for the FY25 competitive grants program.

MSU AgBioResearch and MSU Extension have rapidly put this investment into action and have leveraged the FY24 \$1 million State of Michigan recurring investment with an additional \$1.5 million in MSU matching resources to fund six new faculty positions and two new MSU Extension educators. Five of the faculty positions and both Extension educator roles have been filled already, while the remaining faculty position is in an active search.

The competitive grants program funded four projects in 2024 that cover a variety of important topics. They include increasing resiliency of tree fruit production, creating a decision-support system for resilient agricultural practices, providing farmers with information to build resilient agricultural systems, and addressing pest management concerns in the face of extreme weather events. Four new projects have also been funded in 2025.

Maintaining support for this groundbreaking work by MSU AgBioResearch and MSU Extension is necessary to address these grand challenges. This investment will target long-term research and on-farm outreach, including demonstration projects led by MSU faculty and MSU Extension personnel designed to bolster soil and plant health, soil carbon sequestration, and protection of water quality and efficient use of it — all with the goal of promoting the sustainability of Michigan agriculture.

Time is of the essence to combat the grand challenge of extreme weather to ensure the viability of Michigan's agricultural industries. Investment in the program will bring these goals home to Michigan and help to make them a reality on the farm and for the future.

By funding the remaining faculty and staff salary costs with an additional \$1 million recurring investment (\$2 million total), we will be able to hire additional MSU Extension educators and attract and retain new faculty in our cluster hire strategy to deliver the needed knowledge and expertise to Michigan's agricultural producers. Additionally, fully funding the competitive grants program at \$8 million annually for a total State of Michigan investment of \$10 million in the AgBioResearch and MSU Extension higher education base recurring budgets will optimize the impacts of the program to address Michigan's environmental and agricultural opportunities.