

**Bill Bobier**  
**Hesperia**

Bill Bobier is a life-long Michigan resident, born in Coldwater and residing in Oceana County since 1971 on a 200-acre sustainable farm where he and his wife, Patrice, raise beef cattle, timber and a large market vegetable garden. They have a 50-share CSA and sell at the Sweetwater Local Foods Market, a year-round farmers market in Muskegon.

Interest and many years of service in local government eventually led to his election to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1990. Bill served 4 terms, focusing on agriculture, conservation and other land-based issues. He served 6 years in leadership on the agriculture and natural resource budget committees. Term limits forced him from office at the end of 1998, after which he reestablished his consulting business, Earthscape Resource Management, Inc. Bill serves today as a consultant and lobbyist specializing in those land-based issues.

**Joe Colyn**  
**Battle Creek**

Joe is an innovative Agri-Food professional with 25 years of experience in research and development, purchasing, quality programs and business scenario development. He has a track record as an innovative leader, delivering creative and cost effective programs in support of business development and growth. Originz, LLC is a single-member professional services firm founded by Joe in 2001 focused on the Agri-Food sector. Clients include Fortune 500 companies, start-up firms, producer co-operatives, 501(c)3s, and other consulting firms in need of expertise. Previous to Originz, Joe worked for the Kellogg Company for 18 years. His global experience includes supporting product development programs in Latin America, managing contract food research programs in North America and Europe, and 10 years in Canada leading and delivering food R&D, agronomy and identity-preserved grain programs.

The bounty of Michigan's agriculture and food capacity is one of the best kept secrets in the nation. In the past six years working as an independent consultant to the food industry, Joe has become convinced that Michigan has the capacity in our family farm base to develop a much stronger local and regional food system that leverages our diverse crop base to satisfy the 21st century consumer expectation of food for health. MIFFS is well positioned as a facilitator of the change needed within Michigan to allow our farmers and food markets to thrive, and he welcomes the opportunity to continue contributing to the MIFFS effort as a Council Member to achieving more sustainable food systems for Michigan.

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**Sarah Crane  
Jackson**

Sarah is an individual committed both professionally and personally to small sustainable farms and has been working in the field for the last couple of years. Currently, she is the program manager for Florida West Coast Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council and works remotely from her home in Jackson. She has overseen the development and implementation of Geraldson Community Farm, a 200-member CSA that operates on county-owned land and is a model of public/private partnerships. At another farm run by the RC&D, Sarah is assisting in the development of an incubator for new small farmers. Finally, this year Sarah started a buying club that helps local farmers sell their meat, eggs and dairy products directly to their farm members. In Michigan, Sarah personally seeks to buy as much food as possible from farms in the area. She also is currently working to better connect the Jackson community to local food.

Sarah is honored to be on the Council and is excited to be involved in local food and farming in Michigan. While her job is still in Florida, she wants to put roots down in Michigan and strongly believes in the work MIFFS is doing.

**Keith Creagh  
Williamston**

In April 2008, Keith retired from the Michigan Department of Agriculture where he had the pleasure to serve as the Chief Deputy Director for four different Directors since 1995. In this capacity, he was responsible for operational and administrative functions within the department. During that tenure, he did have the opportunity to work with and develop a relationship with MIFFS at the executive level. Prior to becoming Deputy Director with MDA, Keith held various positions in the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division. During the last three months of his state employment, he worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to develop an implementation plan for the Governor's Land Use Leadership Council. His past experience has allowed him to form lasting relationships with numerous federal and state agencies as well as a diverse group of stakeholders. Upon leaving state government, Keith worked on federal Renewable Energy Standards (RES) supported by the Union of Concerned Scientists and was specifically asked to build an agricultural coalition that would support a broad RES portfolio. Currently, Keith is employed by Neogen Corporation whose core business is to provide cutting edge analytical technologies to the food safety and animal health sectors.

Keith graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1974 and resides with his wife, Laska, in Williamston, Michigan. They are the proud parents of four great kids, have many diverse hobbies and are currently members of the MSU Student Organic Farm CSA. Keith looks forward to using his experience to help MIFFS grow and continue to serve Michigan farmers.

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**Joanetta Greer-O'Bryant**  
**Bangor**

Joanetta is a blueberry farmer, 4-H leader of an inner-city group of children in Kalamazoo. She is a retired Detroit Police officer that has been substitute teaching at Van Buren Intermediate School District for the past five years. She has interviewing, crisis-intervention and paralegal planning skills that she has used for 30 years, and she cherishes her membership to MIFFS.

Joanetta would be honored to be re-elected to the MIFFS council. She is dedicated to sustaining food and farming systems and believes that MIFFS' purpose will improve the economic, health, and ecological well being of our communities. In her present, humble contribution as a blueberry farmer and 4-H leader, she has attempted to show the merit of the MIFFS prospective.

**Tom Kalchik**  
**Grand Ledge**

Tom is a native of Leelanau County where he grew up on a fruit, grain and livestock farm. He is a 1969 graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelors Degree in Horticultural Science. After graduating, Tom returned to the family farming operation in partnership with his brother. He left the partnership in 1973 and has held several positions with agricultural trade associations and food processing ventures since. He has 25 years of experience in managing cooperative businesses. He joined MSU Extension in 2000 and was named Associate Director of the MSU Product Center in 2003.

**Jim Nowak**  
**East Lansing**

Jim is the Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations at GreenStone Farm Credit Services, the largest agricultural lender throughout Michigan and northeast Wisconsin. Among his duties at GreenStone, Jim oversees the association's advertising, communication, promotion, and community involvement efforts. In addition, he is also involved in GreenStone's governmental relations work both in Lansing and Washington, D.C. GreenStone FCS serves some 18,000 farmers and rural residents through a network of 37 offices.

Previous to joining GreenStone in 2004, Jim spent more than nine years in the credit union industry, working in various senior management roles. He is a 1994 graduate of Central Michigan University, with a Bachelors of Science degree in Journalism (Public Relations concentration) and Business Administration. Jim also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Ronald McDonald House of Mid Michigan.

Jim is honored to be nominated and considered for a position on the MIFFS Council, and is excited for the opportunity to be involved in helping develop more sustainable food and farming opportunities within the great state of Michigan. As the second leading industry within the state, agriculture and the diversity of food that we grow in Michigan can and should be driving forces in helping improve the economic outlook for our communities.

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**Kate Redman**  
**Lansing**

A native of Dansville, Kate grew up near her mother's family soybean, corn and wheat farm and has had a lifelong interest in food, agriculture and other issues faced by rural communities. In particular, she is interested in agricultural and land use law and policy. Kate is a lawyer in Lansing and currently works for Michigan Supreme Court Justice Michael F. Cavanagh.

Kate first came to MIFFS as a summer intern in 2002. As a college student, she studied rural sociology with a focus on purchase of development rights programs and other land use tools for farmers. She also wrote a senior thesis on the effect of the 1980s farm crisis on population structure in rural communities in the Midwest. Kate returned to MIFFS full-time after college, and from 2003-2004 worked for MIFFS as Tom Guthrie's assistant. In addition to her experiences at MIFFS, Kate has worked for the Farmers Legal Action Group in St. Paul, Minnesota; the U.S. Senate Agricultural Committee under Senator Tom Harkin in Washington, D.C.; the Washtenaw Land Trust in Ann Arbor; and Midwest Land Legacies in Lansing.

Kate is honored to have the opportunity to return to MIFFS, as a Council member this time. She believes deeply in its mission and is excited by the opportunities opening up for small farmers in the changing landscape of the world of food and agriculture.

**Phillip A. Rios**  
**Grand Rapids**

Phil is a multifaceted management professional with success leading large complex projects/programs and organizations in the corporate and non-profit arenas as well as federal government grant administration. Phil brings an enthusiasm for taking ideas through an innovative thinking process to deliver effective outcomes. As a lifelong resident of Michigan Phil's key food systems focus is: eliminating food deserts in our core urban centers, preserving farmland and promoting a farm entrepreneurial mind set.

Phil currently serves on the Kent/Allegan Workforce Development Board and has a long time commitment to diversity, workforce and economic development. In 2000 Phil received the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce - Minority Business Advocate of the Year award.

Phil is honored to have the opportunity to serve on the Michigan Food and Farming Systems Council and to help MIFFS to pursue its mission and have an opportunity to help Michigan agriculture grow, prosper and lead the state's economic recovery.

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**Ron Steiner**  
**Hart**

Ron was former executive director of the Oceana County Economic Development Corporation, from 1998 through 2004. Since then, he has been with MSU Extension, working as a regional entrepreneurship educator in the value-added agriculture sector. He has a deep desire to provide technical assistance to new entrepreneurs and innovators at the many points of the food systems, and his current mission to show local and state leaders in Michigan that “consumer-driven” farming is basic not only to the state’s economy and culture but also a great business opportunity. Ron has a sincere belief that rural communities can be revitalized and once again become economically viable if the residents of communities are willing to commit their time and energy to the process. Ron came to the position out of early retirement from working as a successful custom computer marketer. He has worked with MIFFS throughout the process of obtaining grant money to develop kitchen incubators on the east and west sides of the state, and is directing the development of the West Michigan Regional Kitchen Incubator, in Hart MI.

**Nicholas Welty**  
**Northport**

Nicholas and his wife own and operate 9 Bean Rows Farm in Northport on Leelanau Peninsula, a year-round CSA farm and bakery. Nicholas manages most of the farming operation, which consists of about four acres, using two passive solar hoopouses to aid year-round production, and raises chickens for eggs and meat. They sell their fruits, veggies and baked goods at several farmers markets, as well as marketing through the CSA.

Nicholas is dedicated to the pursuit of sustainable agriculture, saving farm land, and is an avid supporter of local farmers. Before focusing on his own farm, Nicholas managed fruit and vegetable crop production and agricultural business plan development at Black Star Farms in Suttons Bay. Prior to that, he completed a Master of Science degree at The Ohio State University, where he focused on plant genetics following his Bachelor of Science degree at Carnegie Mellon University. There he doubled majored in Biology and Economics and minored in Chemistry.

Early on, Nicholas developed a passion for growing plants and saving seeds. He first began growing plants for profit (giant pumpkins) at 13, and today he is the co-founder of Megalos LLC, a seed company based in 6 years of prior hobby pumpkin breeding research. He shares his love of plants with his wife, Jennifer Welty, and their 7 year old daughter Avery.

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