



BENZIE-MANISTEE COUNTY
FARM BUREAU®

2026 IMPACT REPORT

What We Do

Benzie-Manistee County Farm Bureau encourages and supports the efforts of our agricultural community. We will support agriculture and related programs, promote agriculture and enhance the community awareness of food production and agriculture in Benzie-Manistee County.

Who We Are

We are the largest general farming organization in the county. Benzie-Manistee County Farm Bureau members are volunteers who have a passion for agriculture. We are farmers, landowners, veterinarians, ag educators, ag industry professionals and more!

Our local programming is directed by our volunteer board of directors:

- **President:**
Katie Schoedel
- **Vice-President:**
Adam Putney
- **Third Member:**
Tobia Purple
- Tobia Purple – Young Farmer Representative
Co-Chair
- Faith Schoedel – Young Farmer Representative
Co-Chair
- Katie Schoedel – Promotion & Education Representative
- David Smeltzer
- Keaton Foster
- Clairra Sattler
- Justin Brown

Board members are elected each year at our county annual meeting in August. Contact our county office to learn more about serving on our board at (231) 775-4430 or BenzieManisteeCounty@ctyfb.com.

Membership by the Numbers

- We represent **204** farming families.
- **20** members participated in programming throughout the year.
- **12** Young Farmer (18–35-year-old) members belong to the organization.
- We hosted **2** County Farm Bureau Events.

2026 Priorities

- Engaging with our members
- Supporting leadership development
- Communicating with our members and beyond

President's Report

Coming into the 2026 membership year we look back at some exciting things offered in 2025, deer tag reimbursement event, two chicken incubators purchased and loaned to local teachers, sponsored a FFA

on the farm event with Wexford County Farm Bureau, membership event at BrixStone Farms, and the County Annual on Nugent Family Farms, both offering tours.

Now we look forward to what we can offer this year. We started with sending members to attend the Lansing Legislative Seminar, Young Farmer Leaders Conference in Kalamazoo, the Voice of Ag Conference in Southfield, and the Young Farmer Discussion Meet in Scottville. We look forward to hosting our membership event, Brats, Bags, & Farm Bureau in April at the fairgrounds.

Committees are busy putting our next event together for the County Annual and we are looking at offering a 2027 scholarship for Ag students or teachers looking at Ag education.

If you would like more information on being involved in upcoming events or joining a committee, please reach out to board members or our County Administrative Manager. Let's do our part for the future of Ag.

I look forward to meeting and/or working with you in the future!

Katie Schoedel, 2026 President

Our Impact



6

Number of policy resolutions drafted by member farmers and submitted for statewide consideration.



\$600

Dollars provided to sponsor local organizations or community events.



1,200

Pounds of food donated to local hunger relief efforts.



500

Number of community members impacted by events/programs.

Reasons to Connect

- Partner on a project impacting childhood hunger.
- Partner on an event or project benefitting farmers.
- Discuss a local issue impacting agriculture/farmers.
- Seek insight or expertise on agricultural issues.

Become a Member

Interested in being a Farm Bureau member? Contact the Benzie-Manistee County Farm Bureau office to learn more about the benefits of membership.

Stephanie Morehouse (231) 775-4430 | smoreho@ctyfb.com

