



# BE AGRICULTURE

A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR AGRICULTURAL  
CAREERS PROMOTION





# Why choose an agricultural career?

The average age of a Michigan farmer is 57 years old. Through at least 2020, there is an expected average of nearly 58,000 job openings annually in agriculture, food and natural resources related careers. Of these positions, only 61% of the jobs are expected to be filled by individuals with experience in agriculture, food, natural resources or the environment. The remaining positions will be filled by those with more general expertise in business, biology, engineering, education, communications and consumer sciences (USDA, 2015).

Michigan Farm Bureau policy indicates support for agricultural career promotion, recruitment and training. As county Farm Bureau members, there is no better recruitment strategy than you speaking to students within your own communities about what you do in your agricultural occupation.

## How to use this guide?

This guidebook centers around four common career promotion forums: speaking to a class/group, interactive career fair booths, career panel participants, and farm tours focused on career exploration. Each set of instructions indicates modifications for each age group. Whether you have been contacted by a school or your county Farm Bureau is coordinating an agricultural career event, this guidebook has outlines, tips, and templates to set you up for success.

## Tips for scheduling success

Both farmers and school systems have busy schedules that should be kept in consideration when working to plan an event. Here are some general tips to keep in mind.

### □ For schools:

- Farmers and agribusinesses are generally busy during the fall and spring months for planting and harvest.
- Often a phone call to a farmer will work best, as they may not have consistent email access.

### □ For farmers/agribusinesses

- Michigan standardized testing takes place in schools in April and May.
- Career fair events are usually popular in the fall, and right before testing.
- School counselors are a great contact to make at the school.

# EXPO BOOTH AT A CAREER FAIR

## TARGET AUDIENCE

**Middle to high school students exploring career opportunities in agriculture**

Career fairs can be a highly effective event to showcase the vast number of opportunities within the agriculture industry. Typically these events are hosted by the school system or intermediate school district. Follow these steps to maximize your career fair ROI and effectively reach students. Remember high school students are most often exploring career opportunities for the future rather than applying for a job.

## PRIOR TO CAREER FAIR

### SET YOUR GOALS

- **What's the #1 reason your county Farm Bureau wants to participate in the career fair?**
  - Do you want to generally showcase agricultural careers?
  - Do you see your role as serving as a liaison to local agricultural businesses?
  - Do you wish to create a general awareness for your county Farm Bureau?
  - What agricultural careers are you highlighting?
  - What skills do you wish to showcase?
  - What passions can you highlight to turn into an agricultural career?
  - What job types (internships, co-op, part-time, etc.) are you promoting?
  - What specific roles are you wanting to share with students?
- **What needs to happen for your volunteers to see their participation as valuable?**
  - How many students need to visit your booth?
  - What would be considered a meaningful connection with a student? How many meaningful connections do your volunteers want to achieve?
  - Ask your volunteers for their own personal responses to these questions. Keep their expectations in mind as you plan your booth set up and interactive ideas.
- **Make sure everyone involved knows your goals – both those on your team and your supporters within the county Farm Bureau. Your goals should drive all decisions as you plan for the event.**

## □ RESERVE YOUR SPOT

- **Find out when career fairs are happening in your county.**
  - During the end of spring semester, email county Farm Bureau members, agriscience teachers, or any school connection you have to find out dates or approximate times of year your area schools will be hosting career fairs and/or career type events (panels, class speakers).
  - Have Farm Bureau members keep an eye out on social media and/or in the schools for career event promotions.
  - Once you have attended a career fair, you most likely will be asked to attend in the future. It may take some coordinating to get on the mailing list the first time around. Make sure the school has your most updated contact information for future invitations.

## □ COORDINATE YOUR BOOTH SETUP

- **Make sure your booth's objective is clear and impactful.**
- **One or two key messages are ideal.**
- **Physical Set Up: Remember: less is more; professional is better than homemade.**
  - Consider investing in professional logoed posters, banners, and/or tablecloths.
  - Consider having signage that tells who you are looking for (majors/training, job titles, job types) to ensure you spend your time with interested students.

## □ DECIDE ON ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

- **High engagement should be a goal. Potential engagement activities include:**
  - Organizing an entire row of agricultural businesses and designate it the "Ag-'row'-culture Careers" at a career fair.
  - Offer a resume critique option for students. This may take some coordination with a teacher, but Farm Bureau members could take time to provide three to four suggestions on student's resumes.
  - Print the agricultural career questions/facts for a trivia wheel game. If a student spins and answers the question correctly they receive a prize.
- **Invite local agricultural businesses to provide a demonstration or a separate booth.**
  - A grain elevator could have students create a trail mix snack as the business

explains how they create specialized diets for livestock called Total Mixed Rations.

- A local greenhouse person could have a matching game with seed samples on one side of the table and the names of the plants on the other. They could ask students to match the seeds with the names to win a prize.
- A veterinarian could have a dog and ultrasound machine for students to try.
- The local GPS service could demonstrate drone technology.
- **Consider how to implement social media engagement.**
  - Make a photo backdrop with your county Farm Bureau logo and encourage students to use props (equipment and uniforms used in agriculture) to show how they could “Be Agriculture”
  - Encourage students to like your Facebook page and post a photo of themselves at the career fair with a specific hashtag you create for the event.
  - Run a social media contest asking students to share a specific career fair post on your social media page. Conduct a drawing of participants for prizes.
  - Purchase a Snapchat filter for the day for students to use and share photos.

## □ **SELECT AND ORDER GIVEAWAYS**

- **Most other employers will have them. There is no “right” item, but it should be something useful, so your branding is visible. Give away ideas include:**
  - “Be Agriculture” ear tag keychains
  - Agriculture Looks Good on Me Sunglasses—“Be Agriculture”
  - Drawstring bags with county Farm Bureau and other agricultural logos
  - MFB headphones
  - MFB pop sockets
  - Reusable water bottles
  - Magnetic locker clip or mirror for lockers with MFB logo
  - “Be Agriculture” stickers
- **Consider putting together a teacher’s bag.**
  - Order your printed materials from MFB or a local vendor.
  - A simple handout with details that may not be on your website can make their visit with you feel more valuable.
  - Keep materials minimal; students and teachers don’t like waste.
  - Make sure that your website, social channel details, and any means to connect with your business are included.

## □ REVIEW THE LOGISTICS

- **Most schools will provide a detailed agenda and logistics for the day. Items you will want to make sure are in:**
  - What size is your exhibitor space?
  - Will tables and chairs be provided?
  - What items are prohibited: latex balloons, food allergy items, animals?
  - Do you have access to electrical outlets and Wi-Fi?
  - What are the set up times?
  - Is lunch provided and/or are there food rules for the event space?
  - Where do you unload?
  - Where should you park?
  - Do you need to enter through the school office first?
  - What items are you allowed to give out to students?
  - Will there be prize drawings and how can you donate items?
  - What grades will be participating?
  - How many students should you plan for the event?
  - Can you provide materials and resources to teachers?
  - Does the school need your logo for promotional items or to share on their website/ social media?
  - Is this career fair exploratory or are students seeking actual job positions?
- Feel free to reach out to the school if details are not provided to better prepare your volunteers for success.
- During a phone call or email to the school, you may find “informal” information that is

**Be sure to checkout our “BE AGRICULTURE” sticker selection in our online store!**





very good to know—better booth locations, signage details, and so on.

## □ PICK THE RIGHT VOLUNTEERS

- **This is the most important section on this checklist. Are you bringing your best to recruit the best?**
- Your group has put all the planning into the booth, now it's time to put your most relatable volunteers front and center. These volunteers may not be on your planning committee and that is okay! You want to seek volunteers who are personable, relatable to students and can talk to anyone. These people may also change from school to school in your county. Consider members who are:
  - School alumni
  - Active in the school (athletics, PTO, boosters)
  - Business owners known by the students and their families
  - Youth group, 4-H, scouts, other organizational leaders in the community
  - School board member
- Have enough people to provide relief. Fairs are exhausting; you need breaks, so make a schedule that ensures your booth is never too empty nor too crowded.
- Provide water and snacks (if not provided by the fair).
- Encourage volunteers to wear nametags, Farm Bureau logoed clothing, uniforms from their career, or purchase county Farm Bureau apparel to be worn only during career fairs.

## □ TELL THE WORLD...at least your community...YOU ARE COMING

- Maximize your time at the career fair by spreading the word that you will be there.
  - Use your social media channels
  - Post on your website
  - Reach out to members to share any posts on social media
- Take advantage of any promotions the fair offers and be sure to provide your logo, short description or comments about involvement.

## DURING THE CAREER FAIR

### □ GENERAL PRACTICES

- Don't eat at your booth—take breaks for that.
- Be sure to drink plenty of water.
- Stay off your cell phone and focus on engaging with students.
- Stand in front of your booth—better yet, create a booth that brings students in and has a hands-on aspect rather than paper handouts.
- If you are relying on the venue's Wi-Fi, have a backup plan if it fails or is too slow.

### □ WHEN TALKING TO STUDENTS

- Ask students what they love to do (hobbies, school subjects, etc.), rather than what they want to be.
- Help connect their passions with a career in agriculture.
- Focus on the WIIFM—"What's In It For Me"—factor.
- Be ready to respond to concrete WIIFM questions: salary, benefits, learning and development, vacations, flex time, work-life balance, etc. (Reference page 9 for examples)
- Do not assume they know a lot about the agricultural industry.
- If you can, give them tips for getting hired into the agricultural industry. What local internships or job opportunities can they participate in? Be able to show them next steps.

### □ WRAPPING UP THE EVENT

- Although things may slow down near the end of the day, don't leave early. Wait until the coordinator gives you the go ahead to start taking down your display.
- Thank the coordinator and ask to be on their list next year.
- If there was a student/teacher evaluation, ask if you could receive those results to better prepare for the next career fair.
- Ask the coordinator if there are other breakout sessions or guest speaker opportunities to showcase agriculture/your business. Could you be of assistance to provide any of those resources?



# CAREER PANEL PRESENTATIONS



## TARGET AUDIENCE

Middle or high school students who have an interest in agricultural careers or teachers/counselors wish to showcase different types of careers in one forum.

## PRIOR TO PRESENTATION

- Consider asking the organizer/teacher the following questions to prepare for your visit.
  - What time am I presenting and what is the expected length of the presentation?
  - Where is the presentation?
  - What are your expectations of the panelists?
  - What's the structure? (Example: Is this a table of five people answering questions from the audience?)
  - Will there be questions asked by a moderator? If so, can we have those questions in advance?
  - Who are the other people on the panel?
  - Why do you want me to be on the panel? What are you hoping to hear from me specifically?
  - How many students will be present? May I bring handouts/give away items?
  - Will all students be in the same grade? If not, what grades should I expect?
  - How have the students been prepared for my presentation?
  - Are the students exploring all careers or have they identified agriculture as a career path?
  - Have these students heard other career speakers? If so, who and what did these speakers share about their jobs?
  - What is an appropriate dress code for the event?



## □ LAYOUT YOUR ANSWERS

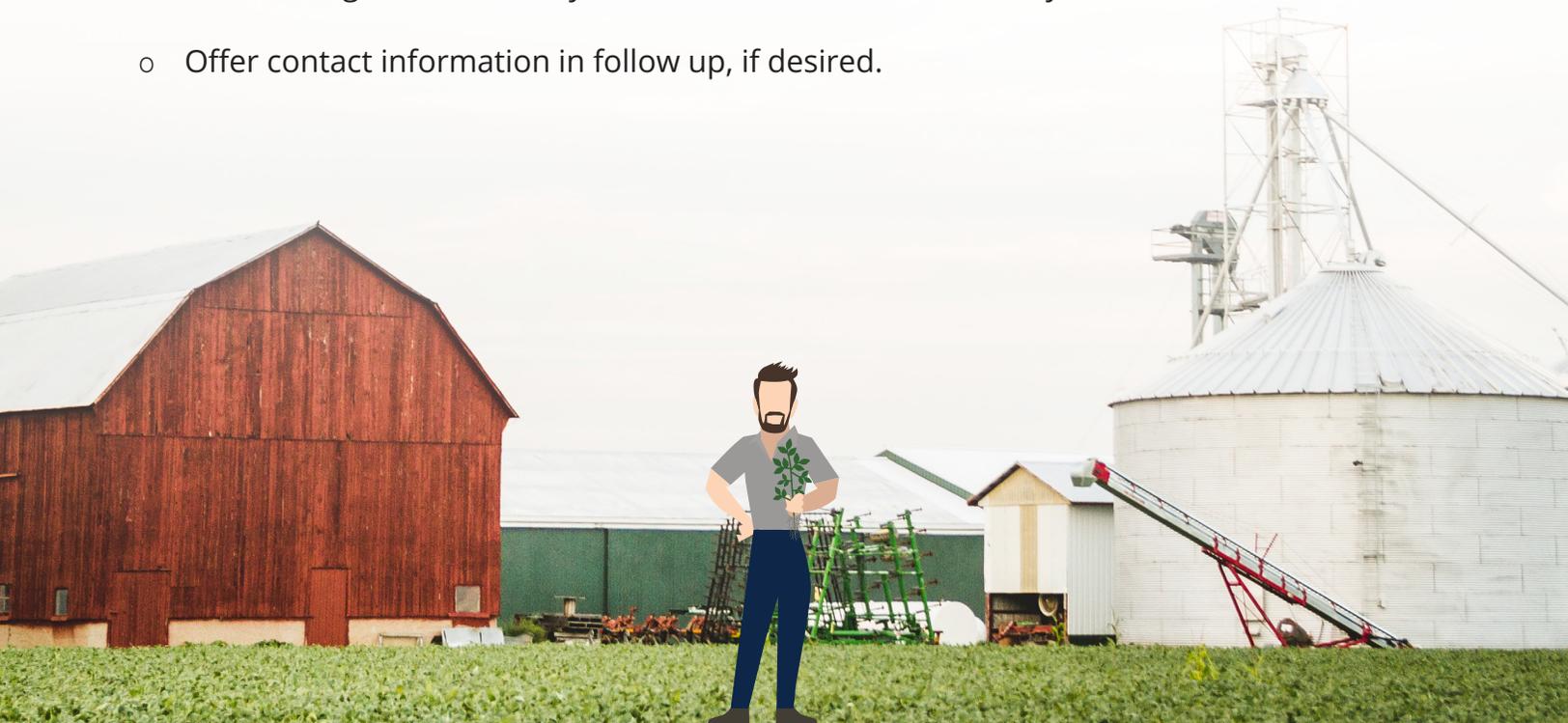
Taking 15-30 minutes prior to the panel helps you gather your thoughts and gives you notes to refer to. If a teacher doesn't provide sample questions you could prepare notes from the following questions.

- What does your typical day look like?
- How did you get started in your role? (Briefly explain your journey. No need to disclose your life's story, but share impactful tidbits of who you are and why you picked this path.)
- What training and education (formal and non-formal) do you have? How do you continue your learning/education (formal and non-formal) to stay current in your job?
- What aspects of this field drew you to this occupation?
- What aspects or tasks are not your favorite and how do you manage them?
- What does your work environment look like?
- Do you work with a lot of other people daily? Do you mostly work alone?
- Do you report to an office or are you out and about?
- Do all the people you work with regularly have the same training/background as you or different?
- Are your work hours flexible and varied or are your work hours consistent and set daily?
- What passions, hobbies, and interests would someone have to enjoy this career?
- What would you tell someone just getting started in your industry? What are some things a person could do to prepare?
- What classes, extracurricular activities, school programming, etc. do I need to participate in to have your job?
  - Example responses: X,Y or Z training is required for this position. However, other experiences that would help you be successful include: being a part of a community or school organization, volunteering in your community, attending professional conferences if available, network with professors and advisors to build relationships and express desired direction following your program, initiating a job shadow with a professional in your field, post-graduation joining a community group such as Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, etc., building a professional reputation (be on time, be respectful, be trustworthy, show up, be willing to take on small tasks that could build into larger responsibly, etc.)
- Be genuine. Your story has brought you success in the ways that are meaningful to you. Each panelists' path is different and you all were invited to show examples of varied occupations and experiences. Be proud of what you have to say.

- Have specific examples for many of these questions that provide details of who you work with, what tools/programs/technologies you use and expectations of results (or examples of results that didn't go as anticipated). Be relatable and specific.

## □ PREPARE FOR TRICKY QUESTIONS

- Have a plan on how to answer questions asking personal information you may not want to reveal.
  - Sample response: "I'd prefer to keep my exact salary private however, I can tell you I make a set salary annually (or I am paid hourly) and receive some benefits from my company such as health insurance, a shared contribution to a retirement plan, and a bonus structure. Sometimes we also receive fun things like a polo shirt or discounted tickets to a MSU game."
  - If your income is based solely on commodity sales an example response could be: "My family and I rely on selling our grain for our farm's income which a portion of those sales, after our farm expenses are paid, is my income. This fluctuates year to year based on commodity prices, weather and harvest yields."
  - If your income is based on commission: "My income is based on the success of my sales. My company sets a pay scale based on number of items sold. So, for example in simple terms, if I sell 10 items the pay scale determines I receive \$100 dollars but if I sell 20 items I may receive \$200 plus a bonus for selling more than anticipated. To retain customers, I also receive a bonus for return customers' sales. Bottom line, if I sell things I make money, if I don't sell I don't make money."
- Offer contact information in follow up, if desired.



# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAREER PRESENTATIONS

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Elementary teachers may invite careers speakers as a way to teach students about their community and local businesses. The objective of these presentations ties to building awareness of jobs and broadening students' view of their communities. Presentations may also be in coordination with other celebrations such as holidays, "promotional holidays" (i.e. safety week, reading month, etc.), or school wide celebrations (i.e. March is Reading Month, STEM night, etc.)

## PRIOR TO PRESENTATION

- Consider asking the organizer/teacher the following questions to prepare for your visit.
  - What time am I presenting and what is the expected length of the presentation?
  - Where am I presenting?
  - How many students will I be presenting to?
  - Will all students be in the same grade? If no, what grades?
  - Will I repeat my presentation multiple times for different students?
  - Do I have access to the internet, projector/smart board, screen, etc. (if desired)?
  - How have the students been prepared for my presentation?
  - Have these students heard other career speakers? If so, who and what did these speakers share about their jobs?

## □ PROPS TO BRING

- Consider dressing for your job. Wear clothing you would wear on an average work day that are clean and appropriate for a school setting.
- Consider reading a children's book that showcases characters like you/your job.
  - Visit the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's Recommended Publications list for book ideas! [www.agfoundation.org/resources](http://www.agfoundation.org/resources)
- Consider bringing equipment, tools, or samples of items you work with on a daily basis.
- Create a powerpoint slide show with 5-10 photos of your job. Even better, have someone take photos of you doing different aspects of your job!
- Bring a small take-home piece for each student. Items could promote your specific job or business, be food items you raise, or items from your county Farm Bureau or the Michigan Farm Bureau online store. [www.miagclassroom.org](http://www.miagclassroom.org)

## **□ WHAT TO SAY**

Use this outline as a guide to build your presentation. Remember young students cannot sit still very long and will not understand complex jargon. Keep it simple!

**My name is:**

I work at \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(company) (title)

**In my job I am responsible for:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**My day looks like:**

(provide a brief overview of the things you do each day)

**I like my job because I like to do these things:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**To do my job, I had to:**

- 1.
- 2.

**When I'm not working I like to:**

- 1.
- 2.

## □ WHAT TO SAY, EXAMPLE

Use this outline as a guide to build your presentation. Remember young students cannot sit still very long and will not understand complex jargon. Keep it simple!

**My name is:** Sally

I work at Michigan Farm Bureau as a Program Specialist.  
(company) (title)

### **In my job I am responsible for:**

1. Helping farmers share their plants and animals with people who don't live on farms.
2. Helping volunteers plan events.
3. Promote these events by writing newsletter articles, creating websites and posting on social media.

### **My day looks like:**

#### **(provide a brief overview of the things you do each day)**

Most days I work at my desk in an office and work on my laptop. I research projects and activities on the internet ways to use these activities to help my farmer volunteers. Often, I meet with other coworkers in our office to plan events together or to share ideas. I have to think about the instructions for these activities so that I can teach our volunteers how to do them and I have to think about things like cost and where I can buy the supplies.

### **I like my job because I like to do these things:**

1. I love agriculture! I love raising plants and animals so I like to help farmers.
2. I like teaching people things.
3. I like a varied work day, sometimes I'm in the office at a computer, sometimes I'm traveling, sometimes I work indoors, sometimes I work outdoors.

### **To do my job, I had to:**

1. My job requires a four-year college degree or more.
2. I have to like working with people. Whether I'm working with my coworkers or visiting farms, I have to enjoy working with others.

### **When I'm not working I like to:**

1. Travel.
2. Hangout with friends and family.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL CAREER PRESENTATIONS

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Middle school students may have participated in some career exploration activities. The objective of career exploration at this level is helping students to pick applicable courses for high school as well as provide exposure to future potential jobs.

## PRIOR TO PRESENTATION

- Consider asking the organizer/teacher the following questions to prepare for your visit.
  - What time am I presenting and what is the expected length of the presentation?
  - Where am I presenting?
  - How many students will I be presenting to?
  - Will all students be in the same grade? If no, what grades?
  - Will I repeat my presentation multiple times for different students?
  - Do I have access to the internet, projector/smart board, screen, etc. (if desired)?
  - How have the students been prepared for my presentation?
  - Are the students I am presenting to exploring all careers or have they identified as interested in an agricultural path?
  - Have these students heard other career speakers? If so, who and what did these speakers share about their jobs?

## □ PROPS TO BRING

- Consider dressing for your job. Wear clothing you would wear on an average work day that are clean and appropriate for a school setting.
- Consider bringing equipment, tools, or samples of items you work with on a daily basis.
- Create a powerpoint slide show with 5-10 photos or videos of your job. Even better, have someone take photos/videos of you doing different aspects of your job!
- Bring a small take-home piece for each student. Items could promote your specific job/ employer or business, be food items you raise, or items from your county Farm Bureau or the Michigan Farm Bureau online store. [www.miagclassroom.org](http://www.miagclassroom.org)
- Showcase the Agriculture Career Explorer Resources for students to browse on their own time, to further investigate career opportunities. [www.agexplorer.com](http://www.agexplorer.com)

# PRESENTATION BINGO

## OBJECTIVE

To keep students engaged in presentation and add an element of competition, students will play BINGO using a list of words from the presentation.

## □ SUPPLIES

- Copies of blank bingo cards for each student. (on page 26)
- List of words that will be spoken in your presentation listed in a powerpoint slide or to write on a marker board for students to write in bingo spaces
- Several trinket prizes for BINGO winners. Consider food items related to your commodity, logoed items from your employer, or items from the Michigan Farm Bureau P&E online store. [www.miagclassroom.org](http://www.miagclassroom.org)

## □ PREPARATION DIRECTIONS

- Write an outline for your presentation. Consider using the Elementary School Career Presentation outline on page 12 and ramp up your terminology just a little for middle school ages. Remember, students will not understand complex jargon.
- Based on your outline, make a list of words you will use in your presentation. Consider words that are unique to your job, yet comfortably incorporated into your presentation. A BINGO card has 24 blanks so you will need 30 or more words.
- Add this list to the beginning of your powerpoint or be prepared to write it on the marker board in the classroom.
- Make enough copies of the BINGO card on page 26 for all students.
- Obtain prizes.

## □ IN-CLASS DIRECTIONS

- Prior to the start of your presentation, explain to the students you have a friendly competition to help them listen for important words related to your profession.
- Explain to students they will need to fill in words on the blank bingo cards using the list you provide.
- Pass out the cards and tell students to fill in the blanks. Remind students it is not in their best "BINGO interest" to put the words in the same places as their neighbors.
- Once everyone has their card complete, tell students to cross out words as they hear them. If they get a BINGO, raise their hand. Show students qualifying BINGO patterns. Consider using the horizontal and vertical rows, diagonal and four corners.
- Begin your presentation, awarding BINGOs as appropriate!

# FARM TOUR WITH CAREER FOCUS



## TARGET AUDIENCE

4-H or FFA members as a part of career exploration modules within these existing programs. \*If your target audience is not one of these two groups, we suggest seeking out additional farm tour resources within the Consumer Conversations Training materials including training on appropriate messaging.

## PRIOR TO TOUR

Consider what locations of your business/farm are most interesting to external audiences and showcase what you do daily.

### □ GENERAL SAFETY

- Clearly outline safety expectations at the outset of tour. Prior to arriving, ensure that any requirements for special clothing (i.e. closed toe shoes, sunscreen, and bug spray) are communicated to the visitors.
- Clearly indicate any potential hazards on signs throughout the facility. This might include uneven ground or low doorways. Make visitors aware that signs, locks and rope barriers are used throughout the facility for their safety and protection.
- Keep all passages and stairways safe and unobstructed.
- Rope off areas you don't want visitors to go; add signage to ensure areas are clearly marked.
- Check for nails, loose railings, syringes, sharp tools, loose tin/siding etc. and take care of these things before guests arrive.
- Never leave any toxic products (sanitizers, pesticides) open and accessible.

### □ QUESTIONS TO ASK THE ADULT LEADER

- How many students and what grade levels will be attending?
- What date and time will they arrive?
- How will they be transported to the farm? Is it one bus, several cars, two vans? Explain parking and if there is a need to travel from one location on the farm to another.
- What knowledge of the farm do students already have? Have they discussed any of the areas listed on the next page so you can reference their learning in your tour?
- What is the teacher/leader's overall goal? If they are unsure, suggest this: To show what I do daily and to display the connections to other agricultural occupations that help me do my job.

## **DURING TOUR**

### **□ LOCATIONS TO SHOWCASE:**

- Business office: Share the importance of understanding finances and the team of individuals who assist—lawyer, banker, accountant, insurance company, etc.
- Equipment/shop: maintenance, cost of equipment, various uses of equipment.
- Animal feed: Have examples of the feed components for students to touch and feel. Discuss how you decide what to feed your animals, how often they are fed, if and when feed changes. Share the individual careers who assist with feed—elevator, feed sales rep, etc.
- Animal health: Share your health protocol. What do you take on? Who do you call when issues arise? How important are the relationships you build with veterinarians and how do you build it?
- Commodity location: Take students to where your commodity is grown/raised. This could be a couple different locations and may include a pasture, various barns, fields, orchard, greenhouses, etc.
- Soil health: Discuss the importance of soil health and sustainability. Take students to a nearby field and consider demonstrating a soil test.
- Plant growth/harvest: If a crop is planted in the field during your tour, show students the plants and discuss items you look for as the crop continues to grow. Allow students to look at harvest equipment.
- Commodity storage and sales: (silos, bunks, packing shed, etc.)
- Chemical storage: Discuss the safety aspect of chemicals. What regulations must you follow? Explain the roles of various chemical sales reps, entities who teach and administer application testing, inspectors and additional individuals involved in chemical use on the farm. Have students try on safety equipment used in application.

### **□ START WITH AN INTRODUCTION**

- Give background of yourself, your family, and your business/farm.
- Provide details of training and/or education you received.
- What is your farm's current main focus? (i.e. to raise apples for processing, to raise replacement heifers for a local dairy farm, etc.)
- Hand out any biosecurity items and/or perform safety tasks. Explain why they must wear/perform the task.

## □ **START YOUR TOUR!**

- Start your tour by following your main commodity's process from start to finish on your farm.
  - Livestock or dairy example: Start with a maternity pen and walk the group around your facility to follow the lifecycle of a calf to a mature cow.
  - Specialty crop example: Start with your youngest apple trees, move through building trellis systems, to oldest trees, and finish with storage and/or distribution.
  - Row crop example: Begin in your seed storage barn. Move to equipment for planting/field work; then show the crop in the field. Wrap up with commodity storage and transportation off your farm.

## □ **ENGAGING STRATEGIES**

- **Clipboard Bingo**
  - Use the provided bingo sheets to add an interactive component to your tour.
  - Greenhouse bingo sheet (page 20)
  - Livestock and Row Crop bingo sheet (page 21)
  - Specialty Crop bingo sheet (page 22)
  - Blank bingo template (page 26)
- **Job Responsibility: Who am I?**
  - Use the sheet provided on page 23 to introduce students to a wide array of individuals who impact the success of a farm and the tasks they perform.
- **Consider providing a take a way:**
  - Hand out swag from your respective commodity group have a handout or swag item?
  - Provide a Farm Bureau career booklet.
  - Give away samples of your commodity. (Be aware of food allergies)
  - Some commodity groups have grants for providing products to farmers for the purposes of promotion.

## ANIMAL SAFETY

- Keep sick or dangerous animals confined and out of view of guests.
- Encourage children not to have direct interaction with animals. If any interaction is allowed, be certain they are gentle animals housed in a way that controls their movement.
- Do not bring cows or horses out of their stalls. If animals suddenly startle this can become a dangerous situation while guests are present.
- Farm pets, such as dogs, should not have interaction with the guests.
- Provide hand sanitizer and/or hand washing facilities for guests, especially if there is animal interaction.

## MACHINERY SAFETY

- Shut off all machinery if unattended or avoid areas where machinery is in operation.
- Remove all keys from tractor ignitions.
- If machinery needs to be in operation while guests are present take the necessary precautions and avoid touring guests where the machinery is in use.
- If you are demonstrating the use of machinery ensure it is in good working condition and guests are at least 20 feet away from the working machine.
- Do not allow guests or children to climb on the machinery.

## LOGISTICAL SAFETY

- Inform all of your workers that visitors will be touring the farm.
- Provide bathroom facilities and hand washing stations for visitors.
- Provide plastic booties, if necessary, to ensure biosecurity.
- Make sure someone is on hand who knows basic first aid and CPR and always have a well-stocked first aid kit available.
- If providing food samples, be sure you meet local public health regulations—Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations food and animal set up—find more information at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).



# **GREENHOUSE/TURF GRASS TOUR BINGO SHEET**

As you participate in our tour, cross out the squares as we share about the various agriculture careers our farm interacts with on a regular basis. Haven't crossed out a word yet? When it's appropriate, ask a question related to the type of career you still need to cross out. For example, "Please explain how you work with a drain commissioner." Or "What tasks would a waste handling technician complete on your farm?" At the end of the tour, we will see how many BINGOs you earned for take home prizes!

## **USE THESE CAREERS TO FILL IN YOUR BINGO CARD**

1. Insurance Agent
2. Marketing/Communications Manager
3. Entomologist
4. Plant Breeder
5. Safety Officer
6. USDA Compliance Officer/Inspector
7. Information Technology Manager
8. Certification Instructor
9. Accountant
10. Irrigation Specialist
11. Researcher
12. Mechanic/Service Mechanic
13. Loan Officer
14. Sales Representative: Grass Seed, Fertilizer
15. Fuel Supplier
16. Meteorologist
17. Manager
18. Elected Officials (Local, State, and Federal)
19. Drain Commissioner
20. Equipment Dealer
21. Pesticide Applicator
22. Lawyer
23. Transportation/Hauler
24. Direct Marketer
25. Statistician

# FARM TOUR BINGO SHEET: LIVESTOCK & ROW CROP

As you participate in our tour, cross out the squares as we share about the various agriculture careers our farm interacts with on a regular basis. Haven't crossed out a word yet? When it's appropriate, ask a question related to the type of career you still need to cross out. For example, "Please explain how you work with a drain commissioner." Or "What tasks would a waste handling technician complete on your farm?" At the end of the tour, we will see how many BINGOs you earned for take home prizes!

## USE THESE CAREERS TO FILL IN YOUR BINGO CARD

1. Insurance Agent
2. Marketing Communications Manager
3. Veterinarian
4. Plant/Animal Breeder
5. Elevator Manager/Feedlot Operator
6. State and/or Federal Inspector
7. Information Technology Manager
8. Certification Instructor
9. Accountant
10. Waste Handling Technician
11. Farm Manager
12. Mechanic/Service Technician
13. Loan Officer
14. Sales Representative: Feed, Seed, Fertilizer, etc.
15. Fuel Supplier
16. Agronomist
17. Human Resource Manager
18. Elected Officials (Local, State, and Federal)
19. Drain Commissioner
20. Equipment Dealer
21. GPS System Provider
22. Lawyer
23. Transportation/Hauler
24. Manager
25. Nutritionist

# FARM TOUR BINGO SHEET: SPECIALTY CROP

As you participate in our tour, cross out the squares as we share about the various agriculture careers our farm interacts with on a regular basis. Haven't crossed out a word yet? When it's appropriate, ask a question related to the type of career you still need to cross out. For example, "Please explain how you work with a drain commissioner." Or "What tasks would a waste handling technician complete on your farm?" At the end of the tour, we will see how many BINGOs you earned for take home prizes!

## USE THESE CAREERS TO FILL IN YOUR BINGO CARD

1. Insurance Agent
2. Marketing Communications Manager
3. Plant Breeder
4. Safety Officer
5. Food Quality/Safety Inspector
6. Information Technology Manager
7. Certification Instructor
8. Accountant
9. Waste Handling Technician
10. Farm Manager
11. Mechanic/Service Technician
12. Loan Officer
13. Sales Representative: Supplies, Seed, Fertilizer
14. Fuel Supplier
15. Meteorologists
16. Human Resources Manager
17. Elected Officials (Local, State, and Federal)
18. Drain Commissioner
19. Equipment Dealer
20. GPS System Provider
21. Lawyer
22. Transportation/Hauler
23. Electrical Engineer
24. Agronomist
25. Entomologist



# TEMPLATE EMAILS

## COUNTY FARM BUREAU TEMPLATE EMAIL

Use this template email to let local schools know the county Farm Bureau has career resources and is willing to engage with local students! Search schools websites for a high school counselor, career counselor or agricultural teacher to build these relationships. Often, school administration must approve of activities but contacting a counselor or teacher directly will be a more effective in-road.

Dear (insert high school counselor name here),

The average age of a Michigan farmer is 57 years old. Through at least 2020, there is an expected average of nearly 58,000 job openings annually in agriculture, food and natural resources related careers. Needless to say, Michigan agriculture is seeking talented young professionals to consider post-high school training or higher education to fill this demand.

If your high school has a career fair or invites guest speakers to showcase local career opportunities, local agricultural professionals would like to be included! (insert county Farm Bureau name) would be happy to make the connections with these community members.

If you have questions or would like to brainstorm ways to connect with the agriculture, food and natural resources sector, don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

(insert name)

(insert role with insert county Farm Bureau)

## TEACHER TEMPLATE EMAIL

This email is for teachers or career event organizers. The structure will help line up your ask, as well as provide necessary details to your potential presenters.

Dear (insert business/organization name here),

Studies have shown students are making decisions about their intended career paths as early as third grade! At (insert school name here) we value community partnerships and want to show our students the many career opportunities right here in our local area. We would like to invite (insert number of people) from (insert business/organization name) to participate in a (insert type of career activity) on (date) at (location) from (insert time range).

(Insert further expectations of booth, presentation or panel members, see previous activity instructions for suggestions of supplies, questions and set up)

We look forward to showcasing your involvement on our school's social media and parent newsletters as we value our community partners.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me at (email) or (phone).

Thank you again,

(insert name, position,)

# B I N G O

		<b>FREE SPACE</b>		

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom

- [miagclassroom.org](http://miagclassroom.org)

## National Agriculture in the Classroom

- [agclassroom.org](http://agclassroom.org)

## Michigan Grown, Michigan Great

- [michigangrown.org](http://michigangrown.org)

## American Farm Bureau

- [fb.org](http://fb.org)

## My American Farm

- [myamericanfarm.org](http://myamericanfarm.org)

## Journey 2050

- [journey2050.com](http://journey2050.com)

## Food Dialogues, U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance

- [fooddialogues.com](http://fooddialogues.com)

## GMO Answers

- [gmoanswers.com](http://gmoanswers.com)

## American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture

- [agfoundation.org](http://agfoundation.org)

## Best Food Facts, Center for Food Integrity

- [bestfoodfacts.org](http://bestfoodfacts.org)

## Common Ground

- [findourcommonground.com](http://findourcommonground.com)

# COMMODITY ORGANIZATIONS

**Our state commodity organizations are a great resource for commodity-specific facts, handouts, guest speakers, give-away items and even sometimes monetary donations.**

Cherry Marketing Institute.....	choosecherries.com
Corn Marketing Program of Michigan.....	micorn.org
GreenStone Farm Credit Services.....	greenstonefcs.com
Michigan Ag Council.....	michigangrown.org
Michigan Agricultural Commodities.....	michag.com
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, Inc.....	mipoultry.com
Michigan Apple Committee.....	michiganapples.com
Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board.....	michiganasparagus.org
Michigan Bean Commission.....	michiganbean.org
Michigan Beef Industry Commission.....	mibeef.org
Michigan Beekeepers Association.....	michiganbees.org
MBG Marketing-The Blueberry People.....	blueberries.com
Michigan Christmas Tree Association.....	mcta.org
Michigan Floriculture Growers Council.....	mifgc.org
Michigan Forest Resource Alliance.....	michiganforest.com
Michigan Craft Beverage Council.....	michigancraftbeverage.com
Michigan Horse Council.....	michiganhorsecouncil.com
Michigan Maple Syrup Association.....	michiganmaple.org
Michigan Pork Producers Association.....	mipork.org
Michigan Potato Industry Commission.....	mipotato.com
Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.....	michigansoybean.org
Michigan Sugar Company.....	michigansugar.com
United Dairy Industry of Michigan.....	milkmeansmore.org
Michigan Wheat Program.....	miwheat.org



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