What's the Solution?

Michigan's Farmland & Open Space Preservation Program

Agriculture is Vital to Michigan

Most agriculturally diverse state in the nation, with more than 200 different commodities. Only California is more diverse.

Food & Agriculture Industry contributes $101.2 billion

52,194 farms in operation (compared to 56,014 farms reported in 2007)

9.95 million acres in production

Farming Continues to Erode


During the same time, the number of farms decreased from 56,014 in 2007 to 52,194 in 2012.

The Program Has Helped Provide a Stable Land Base for Farming and Support Young Farmers' Access to Land

Since 1975, the program has helped protect 24,115 acres of permanently protected farmland. 33% of all Michigan's farmland in production.

$1.7 million (program-generated funds) and $460,000 in total grants made 2005-2007.

Funding Down

Despite an expressed need among farmers, applications submitted each year:

$0 ag preservation fund

$0 local government grants

2 unfulfilled positions

Michigan needs dedicated farm preservation funding.

Learn more about preserving our farms at heartofthelakes.org

Places create stories