

## Director Candidates - Region 3

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### **WM. "HANK" CHOATE**

Jackson County  
Cement City, Michigan

#### **INCUMBENT:**

- Age 70
- FCS Member for 31 years

#### **BUSINESS ADDRESS:**

11670 Culver Road, Cement City, Michigan 49233

#### **YEARS FARMING: 52**

#### **FARMING ENTERPRISE:**

Hank and his wife Katie operate a dairy farm with 480 milking cows, 450 replacement heifers and farms 1,900 tillable acres of alfalfa, corn, soybeans and wheat. He has a family farm partnership with his brother Randy, his son Levi and nephew Rick.

#### **EDUCATION:**

Columbia Central High School

#### **OTHER AFFILIATIONS:**

Board Member: Michigan Milk Producers Association

Board Member: United Dairy Industry of Michigan

Center-Star Advisory Committee

Liberty Township Planning Committee

Farm Bureau Dairy Advisory Committee

#### **REASON FOR RUNNING:**

Agriculture continues to be challenged by economics and regulations. I have been engaged with the policy makers to help them understand how policies they enact affect our operations. In April 2017 I was one of fourteen voices of agriculture that met with President Trump to identify and discuss the issues that agriculture face. GreenStone understands these issues and how they impact us. It is one of the duties of a board member to make sure the organization meets the financial needs and help keep the policy makers understanding how policy regulations can impact our lending ability. I have the passion, knowledge, and skills to do what you expect of a board member. It would be an honor to continue to serve you on the GreenStone Board of Directors.



### **MICHAEL J. FEIGHT**

Lenawee County  
Tecumseh, Michigan

#### **NOMINEE:**

- Age 64
- FCS Member for 36 years

#### **BUSINESS ADDRESS:**

1474 Russell Road, Tecumseh, Michigan 49286

#### **YEARS FARMING: 45**

#### **FARMING ENTERPRISE:**

Mike is in partnership with his father Fred and brother Doug. They have a cash crop operation of 2,500 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat, along with 75 acres of carrots for Campbells Soup. They sold their dairy livestock in 2018.

#### **EDUCATION:**

Tecumseh High School and Michigan State University

#### **OTHER AFFILIATIONS:**

Member: Covenant Presbyterian Church, past elder

Trustee: Tecumseh Township Board

Committee Member: Lenawee County FSA

Past MSU Dairy Cattle Judging Team

#### **REASON FOR RUNNING:**

To begin with, I am humbled and honored to be asked by the GreenStone Nominating Committee to run for the director position. As with all the positions I have held in the past, I have never sought out the opportunity but was asked to hold the position, as is the case with this nomination.

My main goal would be to be a liaison between those I am representing and GreenStone.

In the business of agriculture and food production, we learn to accept that there are many aspects that we have no control over. Having a strong financial institution backing our business decisions gives us a peace of mind as we move from generation to generation with our goals and ambitions. The Nominating Committee has shown trust in me to represent GreenStone in a positive way and I would hope you would also. Thank you.



**BRUCE E. LEWIS**

Hillsdale County  
Jonesville, Michigan

**INCUMBENT:**

- Age 55
- FCS Member for 36 years

**BUSINESS ADDRESS:**

4840 Sand Lake Road, Jonesville, Michigan 49250

**YEARS FARMING: 36**

**FARMING ENTERPRISE:**

Bruce and his wife Jennifer have a 700 cow dairy operation, farming 2,600 acres of corn, alfalfa, soybeans, and wheat. They also sell beef direct to the consumer through a small store at their farm office. Both of their sons are also involved in the operation.

**EDUCATION:**

Jonesville High School

**OTHER AFFILIATIONS:**

Board Member: Michigan Milk Producers Association

Past Vice President: Hillsdale-Litchfield Local Michigan Milk Producers Association Advisory Committee and Resolutions Committee

Member: Farm Bureau, County Candidate Evaluation Committee and Policy Development Committee

Member: Hillsdale County Dairy Promoters

Dairy Farmer of the Year 2013

Host of Breakfast on the Farm 2015

**REASON FOR RUNNING:**

I truly appreciate that we have such an available and reliable source of credit in our country, and because of that, the Farm Credit System has been my primary source of credit for over 30 years. I have utilized many of their services and found them to be reliable and timely.

I have always felt the importance of being involved in organizations that are so vital to our livelihood. I would be honored to continue to serve my fellow stockholders in this great organization.

Thank you.



**JILL C. SEARS**

Jackson County  
Horton, Michigan

**NOMINEE:**

- Age 61
- FCS Member for 40 years

**BUSINESS ADDRESS:**

6701 Reynolds Road, Horton, Michigan 49246

**YEARS FARMING: 40**

**FARMING ENTERPRISE:**

Sears Farms runs 500 beef cows along with a feed lot operation of approximately 800 fat cattle, and farm 2,800 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay. On a smaller scale, they also haul grain.

**EDUCATION:**

Hanover Horton High School and Jackson Community College

**OTHER AFFILIATIONS:**

Board Member: Jackson County Fair Board

Board Member: Michigan Beef Industry Commission (Beef Check Off)

Past Board Member: Hanover Horton High School PTA

Past Board Member: FCS Southeastern Michigan, predecessor organization to GreenStone

Past Administrative Leader: Round Lake Wolverines 4-H Club

Member: Farm Bureau, Past Policy Board

**REASON FOR RUNNING:**

First, I am honored to be asked to run for the GreenStone Board of Directors. Thank you! I really miss the networking and learning that goes with such a position.

I am very proud to be a member of GreenStone, which has always been a big part of our farming operation with their financial loyalty behind us for all of our adventures in farming. When it was time for our children to look for financial services, we sent them to GreenStone. With the second generation taking over a big part of our farm operation, I am very happy to have GreenStone as our financial lender.