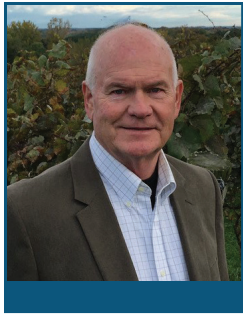


## Director Candidates - Region 4



**JOSEPH B. HERMAN**

Berrien County  
Benton Harbor, Michigan

**NOMINEE:**

- Age 66
- FCS Member for 30 years

**BUSINESS ADDRESS:**

6659 North Branch Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

**YEARS FARMING: 43**

**FARMING ENTERPRISE:**

Diversified fruit farm and winery (Karma Vista Vineyards), producing juice grapes, wine grapes, tart cherries and peaches. All of their juices go to Welch's. This is a seventh-generation farm established in 1847.

**EDUCATION:**

Coloma High School, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin – Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism

**OTHER AFFILIATIONS:**

- Director: Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail
- Member: National Grape Co-op
- Member: Michigan Grape Society
- Member: Michigan Peach Sponsors
- Past Director: ProFac Cooperative
- Past Board Member/President: Coloma High School

**REASON FOR RUNNING:**

I am grateful for all of the assistance GreenStone has provided our family farm operations for multiple decades now. It has been essential to our success. I would like to contribute to the board the perspective of smaller, labor-intensive farm enterprises that represent much of the fruit and vegetable operations in this corner of Michigan, as well as an ag tourism vantage point.

My experience on the ProFac Cooperative board of directors, the multi-state co-op that owned Birds Eye Foods among multiple other brands at the time, also allowed me to see the ag industry at some of its largest scale. I was on that board as it engineered a sale to a venture capital group that returned a value to co-op members above and beyond their original investment. This is a feat that has rarely occurred in the history of co-ops.

I am looking forward to representing Region 4 of the GreenStone Board of Directors. Southwest Michigan remains one of the most prolific and diversified fruit and vegetable growing regions in the country. This diversity of commodities is one of the great strengths of the Michigan farming community and the GreenStone portfolio.



**BRIAN D. PRIDGEON**

Branch County  
Montgomery, Michigan

**NOMINEE:**

- Age 40
- FCS Member for 12 years

**BUSINESS ADDRESS:**

1115 Pridgeon Road, Montgomery, MI 49255

**YEARS FARMING: 14**

**FARMING ENTERPRISE:**

I am a seventh generation pig farmer in southeastern Branch County. I farm alongside my father (Bill) and brother (Paul). We employ 18 people to work the 4100 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat, and raise a farrow to finish 2100 head sow herd. Additionally, we are members of a sow cooperative with Kalmbach Feeds and finish those pigs through a grower network in southern Michigan and northwestern Ohio. Collectively, we market 71,000 hogs annually to Indiana Pack in Delphi, Indiana.

**EDUCATION:**

Reading High School, Central Michigan University – BSBA – Finance and Management and Master of Arts Communication.

**OTHER AFFILIATIONS:**

- Vice President: Branch County Farm Bureau
- President/Board Member: Michigan Pork Producers Association
- Elder: Pine Ridge Bible Church
- Past Chair: Michigan Commission of Agriculture

**REASON FOR RUNNING:**

When I first returned to the family farm, we were primarily working with a local bank and a multinational bank. Challenges in the hog market in 2008 caused us to seek to work with GreenStone largely because they understand the economics and demands of the modern-day livestock farmer. Larry Urban became an instrumental partner to Pridgeon Farms, and he demonstrated the long-term care and vision that solidified the relationship between Pridgeon Farms and GreenStone. My reasons for running are simple. First, I would like to serve the organization which has served us. Second, I think I can provide a perspective that represents agriculture well.



**EDWARD L. REED**

Cass County  
Marcellus, Michigan

**INCUMBENT:**

- Age 59
- FCS member for 29 years
- Board member for 14 years

**BUSINESS ADDRESS:**

55150 Miller Road, Marcellus, MI 49067

**YEARS FARMING: 25**

**FARMING ENTERPRISE:**

Ed runs a hog and grain operation with 3500 sows farrow to finish, marketing 90,000 hogs and 3000 acres of crops. Stockholder of Clemens Food Group, pork processing plant in Coldwater, Michigan.

**EDUCATION:**

Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Western Michigan University. Managed several large power and electrical control installation projects in the pulp and paper industry.

**OTHER AFFILIATIONS:**

- Producer/Partner: Clemens Food Group
- Board Member: Michigan Pork Producers Association
- Board Chair: Three Rivers Health Foundation
- Board Member: Farm Credit Foundations

**REASON FOR RUNNING:**

GreenStone is the premier agricultural lending institution in Michigan and northeast Wisconsin. Since coming on the board in 2008, GreenStone has grown from \$4 billion in assets to \$10.7 billion with \$1.7 billion in capital. This exceptional growth has been due to GreenStone's excellent staff and their commitment to customers and their families. As a board member and fellow shareholder, it's my responsibility to make sure staff stays in touch with our core business: agriculture. As outside investment companies become more involved in land, this is especially important. In the highly volatile commodities markets we trade in every day, you must have a lender who understands risk management, hedging, and one that stands by you, in the good years, as well as the bad. In serving the agribusiness owners of GreenStone, we must strive to be more efficient, yet personal, and provide consistent, competitive capital to this growing industry. As Chairman, GreenStone's patronage dividend to our shareholders has grown to over \$100 million dollars a year for the past two years. Returning capital to your operations is efficiency at its best; combining loyalty to fiscal responsibility. American agriculture should be proud to be the cheapest, safest, and most efficient food producers in the history of the world, and I'm proud to share that distinction with you, not only as your GreenStone representative, but as a fellow producer.

I look forward to utilizing my engineering management skills, as well as my previous experience as Chair of the board in facing the present and future challenges of your GreenStone Farm Credit Services.



**MICHAEL R. TIMMER**

Allegan County  
Hopkins, Michigan

**INCUMBENT:**

- Age 52
- FCS Member for 25 years

**BUSINESS ADDRESS:**

1560 128th Avenue, Hopkins, Michigan 49328

**YEARS FARMING: 31**

**FARMING ENTERPRISE:**

The Timmers currently raise replacement heifers for a large dairy. They also raise corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and wheat. Beginning in 2020 they started a new enterprise raising triticale for seed.

**EDUCATION:**

Hopkins High School; Bachelor's degree in Food System Economics and Management from Michigan State University

**OTHER AFFILIATIONS:**

- Member: State Policy Development Committee: Michigan Farm Bureau Board/Committee Member and County President: Allegan County Farm Bureau
- Board Chair: Hopkins Township Planning Commission
- Active Member: Martin Reformed Church

Recognized by Successful Farming Magazine for a "Spreadsheet of the Month" and for a "Shop idea of the Month"

**REASON FOR RUNNING:**

I have a greater appreciation for the Farm Credit System than when I began my first term as a director. I started the process of running for a board of director position four years ago, because I wanted to give back to an organization that has helped our family farm. While that same desire is still there; my time as a director has given me a greater vision of what GreenStone FCS and the Farm Credit System mean to the success of not only the family farm, but also agricultural enterprises throughout our state and nation. I would like to continue to serve as a director so that I can personally support the mission of the Farm Credit System and work with fellow board members to make Greenstone FCS the best it can be.