

Director Candidates - Region 5



CHERYL "CHERI" CHAPIN

Mecosta County
Remus, Michigan

NOMINEE:

- Age 61
- FCS Member for 14 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

5619 60th Avenue, Remus, Michigan 49340

YEARS FARMING: 42

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

My husband Doug and I operate Chapin Family Farms, LLC, with our son Sam and daughter-in-law, Micah. We milk 700 cows three times per day in a double 16 parlor and farm around 2000 acres of corn, alfalfa, wheat, some sorghum, peas, and oats. Nearly all of our crops are cattle feed.

EDUCATION:

Bedford High School in Temperance, Michigan, Michigan State University studying business.

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

- Member: Farm Bureau
- Member: Michigan Milk Producers Association

REASON FOR RUNNING:

My family has always had a strong commitment to serve, whether at church, school or farm-related activities. It would be an honor to serve on GreenStone's Board of Directors, because GreenStone offers so many important services to farmers. I know our farm has appreciated and utilized several of GreenStone's services.

I believe my experience serving on the National Dairy Board has helped me become a better agriculture leader. I also believe, however, I can still learn a great deal and would welcome the opportunity to serve GreenStone as a board director.



TRENT C. HILDING

Montcalm County
Edmore, Michigan

NOMINEE:

- Age 41
- FCS Member for 12 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

6824 East Lake Montcalm Road, Edmore, Michigan 48829

YEARS FARMING: 25

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

Hilding Farms, LLC consists of 60 Simmental/Angus cow/calf pairs rotationally grazed on irrigated pasture. In addition, this family venture with my wife and children by my side, also grows 2500 acres of row crops consisting of corn, hay, oats, and beans on owned and rented irrigated land. In excess of 15 years, I have been engaged in the practice of law working primarily with farm families and agribusinesses. Since 2010, Trent C. Hilding, PLC has been a farm business/estate succession planning law firm that has worked with thousands of Michigan farmers, landowners, and agribusinesses.

EDUCATION:

Vestaburg High School, BA (Political Economy), BS (Agribusiness Management) from Michigan State University; and Juris Doctorate (Ag Specialization) from Drake University Law School.

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

- Member: Montcalm County Farm Bureau
- Member: Montcalm County 4-H Fair Association
- Past Board Member: Agricultural Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan
- Past Committee Member: Michigan Cattlemen's Association

REASON FOR RUNNING:

In high school I knew that I wanted to be a farmer. Following graduation from high school, I have focused my continued education in agriculture. Following college and law school, I jumped back into my roots at the centennial farm I purchased from my grandfather and farmed. I have been able to create a law practice that focuses heavily on farmers and agribusiness, all while still building my own farming operation. Managing budgets and finances for a healthy operation is the motivation that drives me. GreenStone Farm Credit Services has played a powerful role in helping me grow when the opportunities were available. I have seen the impact and progress with many operations when there was a healthy balance sheet and a healthy relationship with their lender. I have been part of many teams in the past, and I feel like this is an opportunity adequately timed at a point in my life where I can devote the time required to give back. My experience and background will be beneficial to the leadership and governance of the GreenStone Farm Credit Services Board of Directors. GreenStone Farm Credit Services is a valuable resource to our farmers, and I would greatly appreciate the chance to serve on its Board of Directors.



RONALD J. SCHWASS

Mason County
Scottville, Michigan

NOMINEE:

- Age 63
- FCS member for 17 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

922 W Kinney Road, Scottville, Michigan 49454

YEARS FARMING: 45

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

Springdale Farms LLC is a fifth and sixth generation farm which includes Ron, his brother Bill, son Luke, and nephew Levi. The cropping enterprises include 3,850 acres of corn, wheat, soybeans, and rye; 1,475 acres of processed zucchini, string beans, winter squash, butternut squash and carrots; and 135 acres of fresh asparagus. Of the total acres approximately 600 are organic corn, string beans, and squash.

EDUCATION:

Mason County Central High School, Michigan State University Bachelor of Science in Food Systems Management

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

- Member: Our Savior Lutheran Church
- Past Board Member: Mason County Farm Bureau
- Past Board Member: Mason County Economic Development Committee

REASON FOR RUNNING:

Our farm has thrived because of its working relationship with GreenStone and their excellent employees. Many banks have lost their connection with the agriculture community, so it is important to deal with an institution that specializes in agriculture and has employees that understand it. Because I've handled the financial information and processes for our business for over 30 years I feel, if allowed, I would provide valuable insight as to how the relationship works between GreenStone and its customers and what we, as farmers, need. I would hope that I can give something back to an institution that has been so beneficial to our farm.



JED WELDER

Montcalm County
Sheridan, Michigan

INCUMBENT:

- Age 53
- FCS Member for 12 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

5631 Muskrat Road, Sheridan, Michigan 48884

YEARS FARMING: 12

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

My family and I own and operate Trinity Farms, a sustainable cash crop farm located in Sidney, Montcalm, Fairplains, and Eureka Townships of Montcalm County. We currently farm 1400 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay. We also custom harvest for other farmers in our area and perform custom and rental work with a 42-foot land roller.

EDUCATION:

Greenville Senior High School; Bachelors of Science from Central Michigan University, U.S. Army Ranger School, U.S. Army Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms Staff Course

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

- Director: Montcalm County Conservation
- District Trustee: Sidney Township
- Board Member: Farmer Veteran Coalition, Michigan Chapter
- Member: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
- Trustee: Sheridan VFW

REASON FOR RUNNING:

GreenStone is an organization that my wife and I have been proud to be associated with. This group's vision for agriculture and concern for its members sets it apart in my experience. It has been a blessing to move back to the Great Lakes to begin raising a family, and a farm, and I want to give back to a group that assisted me in getting my start. As one of the only veteran farmers in my area, I believe I can be an advocate for Farm Credit Services members transitioning from their military service to both farming and rural living.