

Director Candidates - Region 4



LORI A. DROZD

Allegan County
Allegan, Michigan

NOMINEE:

Age 57
FCS Member for 20 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

255 M-40S, Allegan, MI 49010

YEARS FARMING: 36

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

After graduating from Western Michigan University and earning my CPA accreditation, I had the opportunity to work for a CPA firm with a large agricultural client base while co-managing our cash-crop farm. These experiences allowed me to understand both the producer's viewpoint and the lender's perspective—insight that has guided my work throughout my career. After the founder of the firm retired, I continued serving farm and non-farm clients through accounting and consulting practice, helping operations strengthen their financial positions and prepare for key year-end decisions. For the past few years, I have served as Chief Financial Officer of a commercial roofing company in Michigan, gaining leadership experience in a large, diversified business environment. This broadened my understanding of operational management and strategic planning and has impacted how I approach agriculture. Since May 2025, I have returned full-time to our family operation with my husband, Jay, and our two adult children. Together we manage a cash-crop farm, a consulting business, and serve as the third generation representing Pioneer Seed. Our mission is to support the farmers and business owners we work with, helping them strengthen their operations and prepare for long-term success.

EDUCATION:

Allegan High School
Western Michigan University

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Board Member: Farm Service Agency
Past Board Chair: Allegan Credit Union
Member/Treasurer: First Baptist Church of Allegan

REASON FOR RUNNING:

GreenStone's cooperative model, commitment to agriculture, and team-centered approach to member relationships are the reasons I have long aspired to serve on the GreenStone Farm Credit Services Board. The unexpected turns in my career path allowed me time to serve on other boards, deepen my leadership experience, and strengthen the skills necessary to contribute effectively to a cooperative board environment. I believe strongly in the resilience of farmers, but also in the need for continued advancement. In today's global marketplace, producers must be increasingly strategic—combining agronomy knowledge with financial, technological, and operational expertise. GreenStone's focus on financial strength, portfolio diversity, and member service ensures that our cooperative remains positioned to support farmers through both change and opportunity alike.



MATTHEW J. HAMLIN

Allegan County
South Haven, Michigan

NOMINEE:

Age 44
FCS Member for 15 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

6679 111th Avenue, South Haven, MI 49090

YEARS FARMING: 22

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

I am a proud fifth generation farmer of a corn, soybean, oats, and rye operation. I also operate a fresh and processed blueberry farm with a fresh pack facility, assist in management of a fresh cucumber farm and pack facility, and operate as a Pioneer Seed sales agency.

EDUCATION:

South Haven High School
Michigan State University

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Member/Chair: Casco Township Board of Review
Member/Chair: Casco Township Zoning Board of Appeals
Past Member: Casco Township Planning Commission
Past Member: Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee
Past Member: Allegan County Farm Bureau Board

REASON FOR RUNNING:

I have served on local boards and enjoyed learning about different organizations and how they work to help residents and members. My family has been partners with GreenStone Farm Credit Services my entire life, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Board to make decisions that positively impact GreenStone's members. The relationships I have made and the knowledge I have gained throughout my years of involvement has helped me successfully run my own operation, and I feel this would be a great experience.



JOEL D. LAYMAN

Berrien County
Sodus, Michigan

NOMINEE:

Age 49
FCS Member for 19 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

7850 Lake Road, Berrien Center, MI 49102

YEARS FARMING: 19

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

I own and operate J.D. Layman Farms Inc., a first-generation operation based in Berrien Center, Mich. We raise 2,200 acres of certified organic row crops, hay, and vegetables, along with conventional fruit production. I own 5L Farms where we raise and market a beef herd and sheep flock. I also own and operate Silver Creek Poultry LLC, a broiler breeder farm contracted to Miller Poultry for raising fertilized hatchery eggs, as well as Sigma Ag Solutions, a center pivot irrigation dealership.

EDUCATION:

Berrien Springs High School
Michigan State University

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Founder: Sent to Serve LLC
Member: MDARD Soil Health Taskforce
Board Member: Grace Christian School Board of Education
Board Member: Reclaimed by Grace Thrift Store
Past Board Member: Berrien County Farm Bureau
Past Member: Berrien Township Board of Review
Past Guest Speaker: The University of Michigan EAS
524-Agroecosystem Management Graduate Course, Underground Innovations, Ograin Conference, Albert Lea Seed Winter Conference, Lenawee Center for Excellence, National Press Foundation agriculture journalist bootcamp St. Louis MO, League of Conservation Voters panelist at U.S. Senate, Washington DC.
Graduate: Michigan Ag CORE Leadership Program

REASON FOR RUNNING:

I am running for the GreenStone Board of Directors, first and foremost, because I was asked to serve. I am honored my peers nominated me as a candidate and potential director. I believe my broad experience in agriculture would help me serve GreenStone well in a director's role. I am experienced in commercial production of fruit, vegetables, grain, hay, livestock, potatoes, and organic production, and have seven years of ag retail experience. I started my farming operation from nothing, so I have a unique perspective on the needs of young and beginning farmers, as well as the needs of established operations, throughout my almost two decades of farming experience.

The Board's role is to provide guidance and oversight to the organization, as well as ensuring governance and maintaining fiduciary integrity. One of the four board committees is legislative in nature. I have a genuine passion for communicating agriculture to the public, especially to those in government, as agriculture's voice continues to shrink relative to the voice of the non-farm public. I would work tirelessly on GreenStone's behalf to communicate the needs of our association, our industry, and perform the core duties of a director with honor and integrity.



EDWARD L. REED

Cass County
Marcellus, Michigan

INCUMBENT:

Age 63
FCS Member for 33 years
Board member for 17 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

55150 Miller Road, Marcellus, MI 49067

YEARS FARMING: 34

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

I run a hog and grain operation with 3,500 sows farrow to finish, marketing 100,000 hogs and 3,000 acres of crops. I am also a stockholder of Clemens Food Group, a pork processing plant in Coldwater, Michigan.

EDUCATION:

Marcellus High School
Western Michigan University

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Producer/Partner: Clemens Food Group
Board Member: Michigan Pork Producers Association
Board Member: National Pork Producers Council
Board Member: Beacon Three Rivers Health Hospital
Past Board Member: Farm Credit Foundations
Member: Farm Credit Council Advisory Board
Member: Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
Member: United Methodist Church

REASON FOR RUNNING:

GreenStone is the premier agricultural lending institution in Michigan and Northeast Wisconsin. Since joining the board in 2008, GreenStone has grown from \$4 billion in assets to over \$15 billion with \$2.7 billion in capital. This exceptional growth is due to GreenStone's excellent staff and their commitment to members and their families. As a board member and fellow shareholder, it is my responsibility to make sure staff stay in touch with our core business, supporting agriculture and our rural communities. 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 through any season. 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 past chairman, GreenStone's Patronage dividend to our shareholders has grown to over \$120 million dollars a year for the past three years, with a record-breaking \$125 million being returned this March. Returning capital to your operations is efficiency at its best, combining loyalty with fiscal responsibility. American agriculture should be proud to be the most cost-effective, safest, and efficient food producer in the history of the world. 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 cooperative.

Director Candidates - Region 5



DARWIN L. EISENGA

Osceola County
Marion, Michigan

NOMINEE:

Age 50
FCS Member for 25 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

6898 20 Mile Road, Marion, MI 49665

YEARS FARMING: 30

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

My cash crop operation includes 380 acres potatoes for the fresh market, 180 acres of green beans, 350 acres of black beans, 800 acres of wheat, 400 acres of corn, 500 acres of alfalfa, 200 acres of hay, 100 acres of oats, and 50 acres of rye.

EDUCATION:

Northern Michigan Christian School
Davenport University

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Committee Member: Michigan Farm Bureau County and State Young Farmer Committee

Past Board Member: Falmouth Co-op Board for 7 years

Deacon: Highland Christian Reformed Church and Lucas Rehoboth Reformed Church

Board Member: Potato Growers of Michigan

Committee Member: Michigan State Potato Research Committee

REASON FOR RUNNING:

I've worked with GreenStone Farm Credit Services as long as I've been farming and am interested in learning more about the business side of our cooperative. I want to help carry out its mission and serve the cooperative that has been such a big part of my farm's vitality. I'm at the point in my life where my kids are grown, the farm is humming along, and it's always been a goal of mine to someday serve on the GreenStone board of directors, and am looking forward to contributing my time and talents.



TRENT C. HILDING

Montcalm County
Edmore, Michigan

INCUMBENT:

Age 45
FCS Member for 16 years
Board Member for 4 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

6824 East Lake Montcalm Road, Edmore, Michigan 48829

YEARS FARMING: 27

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

HILDING FARMS, LLC consists of 2,600 acres of cash crops (corn, soybeans, oats, wheat and alfalfa), 100 cow/calf pairs and a finishing operation of 450 steers. The farm is operated by myself, my wife, our children, and two long-time employees. I also operate TRENT C. HILDING, PLC, which is my agricultural law practice focusing on estate/business farm succession planning, real estate transactions, contracts and probate/trust matters. We work with farmers, landowners and agribusinesses statewide providing legal advice for estates and business operations.

EDUCATION:

Vestaburg High School
Michigan State University
Drake University Law School

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Member: Montcalm County Farm Bureau

Past 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:

I am currently finishing my first term serving on the board, and it has been an eye-opening experience I am happy to be part of and contribute to. I feel like after one term, I have finally got a full grasp of the board, the committees, and ways that I can contribute. It would be an honor to serve again to continue with the expansion of our finance/technology committee and also throw my hat in at a chance to serve on other committees. I joined the board just in time to participate in the change of our CEO, have witnessed some retirements and replacements of executive staff, and feel like there is more I can do as we rearrange committees with our newest board members and look to protect the cooperative with these tighter times in agriculture.



JOEL L. MIEDEMA

Ottawa County
Holland, Michigan

NOMINEE:

Age 64
FCS Member for 16 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

6731 120th Avenue, Holland, MI 49424

YEARS FARMING: 40

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

My farming experience began in 1974 on a small beef operation with my dad and brother, Bob. We had a loan from Federal Land Bank, and to better service the loan we began milking cows in 1977. I attended Michigan State University's Ag Tech program from 1981 -1982 and learned a lot through the dairy/livestock production classes. While I was there, I also had the opportunity to be a member of the dairy judging team. As a member of the team, we traveled to different universities and developed effective communication skills.

In 1983, I purchased a hog operation in Fremont, Michigan. In 1985 I married my wife Wanda and started working for MACMA, an affiliate company of Michigan Farm Bureau. I worked for the livestock division and was the regional representative for the feeder pig division. In 1991 we moved back to the Holland, Michigan area and continued hog farming on a slightly larger scale. In 1994, we got the opportunity to get into the greenhouse business. We felt it was a great opportunity, and we continued to raise hogs and build the greenhouse business over the next four years, which we transitioned to full-time in 1998. My wife has worked by my side since 1985, and we have continued to expand our greenhouse operation over the last 30 years. I would never have been able to build a business without the support of my wife and children.

EDUCATION:

Unity Christian High School, Michigan State University

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Board Member: South Olive Christian Reformed Church, Holland MI
Board Member: South Olive Christian School, Holland MI
Member: Michigan Plant Growers Co-op
Member: Georgetown Christian Fellowship
Nominating Committee: Farmers Co-op Elevator, Zeeland, MI
Notable customers that we have established business relationships with over the years and continue business relations: Frederik Meijer Gardens, Horrocks Farm Markets, Hope College, City of Big Rapids, City of Beaverton, and several other independent garden centers located in Michigan and Northern Indiana.

REASON FOR RUNNING:

In 2009, we purchased a second retail greenhouse location. That was when our journey began with GreenStone. My first experience with GreenStone was very positive. I have advocated for GreenStone to many others, including family and friends in the livestock or horticultural industry. As an agricultural lender, GreenStone understands our industry. As we transition our business over to our son, Jordan, and daughter, Christina, I would like to be involved in helping other business owners achieve their goals the same way we have been able to, through hard work, dedication and an organization like GreenStone. I believe with the roles and experiences I have had over the years, and knowledge I have acquired by learning to listen, share ideas, lead at times and follow at other times, that I have the experience that would allow me to serve the GreenStone board of directors well.



JED A. WELDER

Montcalm County
Sheridan, Michigan

INCUMBENT:

Age 57
FCS Member for 16 years
Board member for 8 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

5631 Muskrat Road, Sheridan, Michigan 48884

YEARS FARMING: 16

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 1,400 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
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 Veterans of Foreign Wars

REASON FOR RUNNING:

When I first ran for the GreenStone board of directors in 2018, it was to give back to the association that assisted me in getting my start. Since that time, my family's farm has changed and expanded but one thing has remained consistent - GreenStone's commitment to supporting farmers and agriculture in Michigan and northeast Wisconsin. My reason for seeking re-election remains the same, to give back to the association that has given so much to both my family and the farms we work with every day. Our co-op's vision for the future of agriculture and care of its members sets it apart from any other group I have been a part of. It has been both a blessing and a challenge to be a board member. As the chairman of the legislative and public policy committee, I've had the opportunity to speak with our elected officials in both Lansing and Washington in support of farmers. I believe that running for re-election to the GreenStone board gives me a chance to leave a lasting, positive impact on an organization that has allowed my family and my farm to prosper.