

## Powering Michigan Agriculture with Renewable Energy - Speaker Biographies

<p><b>Andy Austin</b>, Digester Manager Scenic View Dairy, LLC Brook View Dairy, LLC (616) 502-0959 <a href="mailto:andy.austin@scenicviewdairy.com">andy.austin@scenicviewdairy.com</a> <a href="http://www.scenicviewdairy.com">www.scenicviewdairy.com</a> <a href="http://www.brookviewdairy.com">www.brookviewdairy.com</a></p>	<p>See case study.</p>
<p><b>Sean Babington</b>, Senior Professional Staff U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Ranking Member Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition &amp; Forestry 202-224-2035 <a href="mailto:sean_babington@ag.senate.gov">sean_babington@ag.senate.gov</a></p>	<p>Sean Babington is a Senior Professional Staffer on the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, where he handles committee business pertaining to energy, climate change, and forestry. Prior to joining the Committee, Sean worked for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet from Colorado, most recently as Bennet's Senior Policy Advisor for Energy and Natural Resources. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a degree in geography and environmental studies and received his Masters in Policy Management from Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy.</p>
<p><b>Jim Byrum</b>, President Michigan Agri-Business Association 1501 North Shore Dr, Ste A East Lansing, MI 48823 517-336-0223 <a href="http://www.miagbiz.org">www.miagbiz.org</a> <a href="mailto:maba@miagbiz.org">maba@miagbiz.org</a></p>	<p>Jim Byrum is the President of the Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA). MABA was founded in 1903, with their purpose being to further the development and prosperity of businesses engaged in agriculture. MABA is a trade organization comprising of over 400 agribusiness members who operate mainly in Michigan, but also in surrounding states and provinces such as Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Canada. These agribusiness companies represent virtually every segment of the agriculture industry including: renewable fuel; feed, seed, fertilizer and pesticide producers and distributors; lending firms; elevators; grain storage and handling companies; transportation companies; livestock, poultry, fruit, vegetable, and commodity producers. Jim's involvement in agriculture spans his entire lifetime, from being raised on a diverse farm in central Michigan, and graduating from the Michigan State University College of Agriculture. He has served as Executive Director of the Michigan Bean Commission and was appointed by President Clinton to serve as the State Executive Director of the USDA's Farm Service Agency. Jim and his wife live in the home where his grandfather was born, and still own the family farm, the fourth generation of Byrum's to do so!</p>
<p><b>Laura Campbell</b>, Manager Michigan Farm Bureau - Ag Ecology Department 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917 517-679-5332 <a href="mailto:lcampbe@michfb.com">lcampbe@michfb.com</a> <a href="http://www.michfb.com">www.michfb.com</a></p>	<p>Laura Campbell manages the Agricultural Ecology Department at Michigan Farm Bureau. She and her team assist farmers, government agencies, and legislators with environmental stewardship and regulatory issues important to agriculture. She co-chairs the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program Advisory Council, and serves on several state Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practice review teams. Laura also works with the NRCS Michigan Technical Committee and statewide task forces on water use and composting practices. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy from Michigan State University, and previously served with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in its Minerals Office, which manages oil and gas development and mining on state lands.</p>

**Aluel (Al) Go**

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Al Go is the go-to guy for anything related to energy conservation in agriculture. He was the driving force behind the development of the Michigan State University Farm and Rural Business Energy Program and has been its manager since its inception in 2010. The goal of the Farm and Rural Business Energy Program is to reduce energy use on Michigan farms and rural businesses while maintaining or improving overall productivity, safety and operator comfort. A major component of this program is to train certified farm energy auditors. Al and others developed the farm energy auditor training curriculum. These audits are of such high quality that they have attracted the attention of the USDA on the Federal level. As of today, 80 auditors have gone through the grueling, five-month program, learning how to audit dairy, grain, greenhouse and other agricultural operations. Al himself is a Certified Farm Energy Auditor. Al coordinates the agricultural sector energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts between Michigan State University and the Michigan Agricultural Energy Council. He works closely with the Michigan Public Service Commission, Michigan Energy Office, agricultural organizations, utilities in Michigan and Wisconsin, universities across the United States, US Department of Agriculture and a host of other entities on programs to reduce energy consumption in the agricultural industry in Michigan and the Mid-West. Al has ten years of experience in energy programs, energy policy, efficiency analysis and renewable energy assessments and six years of experience working with Michigan's utilities in solving energy-related issues and developing programs to address those issues. Al is housed in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

**Charles Gould**, Extension Educator

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Charles Gould provides relevant expertise in the areas of bioenergy, bioproducts and energy conservation to Michigan farmers that enable them to be sustainable now and in the future. He has authored numerous publications on anaerobic digestion, including a web-based curriculum. For the last several years he has worked to design a low cost, robust digester for the 100 cow dairy. Charles received his Bachelor's degree from Utah State University and his Masters degree from The University of Georgia. He has been with Michigan State University Extension since 1995.

**Steve Harsh**

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Steve Harsh is an Emeritus Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics at Michigan State University. Steve joined the MSU faculty in 1968. He worked in teaching, research and extension appointments. He conducted research and outreach programs related to the role of information systems for supporting management, economics of cooperative and livestock production, strategic planning, tactical and operational decision-making, and human resource management. Dr. Harsh received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska and graduate degrees from Cornell University. He has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Naples, Italy and Justus-Liebig University, Giessen Germany. His research interests are in the areas of production economics, information systems for management support, economics of alternative energy systems, human resources management, and strategic and operations management. He taught courses in operations management and quantitative methods. He also had Extension appointment that allowed him to closely work with agricultural advisors and farming and agribusiness firms. He published widely with more than 250 publications including a book and several chapters in books. He is the recipient of several national and international awards for his efforts in the area of information systems and he has lectured widely on this topic. More recently, his efforts have focused on renewable energy, particularly wind energy.

**Dana Kirk**, Assistant Professor and Manager

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Dana is an assistant professor in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State University. In addition, to his teaching and outreach responsibilities, he is the manager of the Anaerobic Digester Research and Education Center (ADREC). The ADREC is collaborative effort between the University and a private foundation to provide a continuum of research, professional development and outreach support for waste-to-energy systems. ADREC research includes bench top, pilot scale and commercial anaerobic digestion systems used to evaluate feedstocks, optimize performance and integrate technologies. He has overseen design, construction and operation of three commercial scale digesters and numerous demonstration and pilot scale systems. The Michigan State University South Campus Digester was recognized by the American Biogas Council as the 2014 Institutional Project of the Year. Throughout his career, Dana, has also worked on issues involved livestock nutrient management, nutrient separation and recovery, sand bedding recovery and dairy facility design.

**Judy Marteniuk**

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Judy Marteniuk grew up on a small beef and grain farm in western Canada. She attended Veterinary school at WCVM and moved to the USA the year following graduation. Initially, she was in private practice in Minnesota for a couple of years before moving to Michigan more than 30 years ago to work at MSU, Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Judy also started a small farm just outside of Lansing and raises both sheep and dairy goats. She is an avid recycler and has always been interested in environmental issues and minimizing our impact on the earth. In 2010 with the energy incentives available, a geothermal heating system was installed in the home. This replaced an aging propane furnace and in addition, provided air conditioning during the heat of the summer. The geothermal system markedly reduced the energy costs of heating the home, plus removed the danger of exposure to carbon monoxide. Again taking advantage of the energy incentives and the falling cost of solar panels, a 20KV stationary solar system was installed on one of the farm's pole barns in the fall of 2014. Although the system doesn't meet the entire energy needs of the farm, it did produce about 2/3 of the energy used in 2015.

**Sean McCoy**, Outreach Account Manager  
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**Sean McCoy** is currently an Outreach Account Manager. His position and focus is the Energy Efficiency Program for Business. Before joining DNV/Kema in Detroit, Mr. McCoy designed and contracted over 140 solar PV Kilo-watts and over one million solar thermal BTUs. He brings with him over twenty years experience as a sales engineer and designer in the engineered wood product industry. He has an extensive knowledge in all aspects of the construction industry. His combined experience and education has developed him as an out-of-the-box problem solver. He has proven to be a team player as well as achieved high sales goals.

**Todd O'Grady**, Program Coordinator  
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Todd O'Grady is the outreach coordinator for Michigan Saves. The non-profit Michigan Saves has helped finance more than \$60,000,000 in energy efficiency improvements with below market rates for homes, farms, businesses, churches, and schools statewide. He is also a M.S.U. Farm Energy Auditor and Board member of Great Lakes Renewable Energy, and Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association.

**Becky Otto**, EQIP Program Coordinator  
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Becky Otto is the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Coordinator in Michigan. She has been on the NRCS State conservation program staff since 2010, previously coordinating the Wetlands Reserve Program. She has worked with NRCS for 16 years in Wisconsin and Michigan, spending the first 10 years in local field offices as a soil and district conservationist. Becky's background includes growing up on a Wisconsin dairy farm and a degree in soil science from the University of Wisconsin-Steven Point.

**Kevin Phillips**, Field Outreach Manager  
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Kevin Phillips implements the Energy Optimization program with farmers who buy electricity from the following Michigan utilities:

- Alger-Delta Electric Cooperative
- Cloverland Electric Cooperative
- City of Escanaba
- Marquette Board of Light and Power
- City of Stephenson
- Great Lakes Energy Cooperative
- Midwest Energy Cooperative
- Newberry Water and Light Board
- Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association
- Presque Isle Electric and Gas Cooperative
- Thumb Electric Cooperative

- HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative

**Paul Proudfoot**, Director  
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Paul Proudfoot is currently Director of the Electric Reliability Division at the Michigan Public Service Commission with forty years of regulatory experience. His current division is responsible for implementing the 2008 energy legislation including responsibilities in the areas of renewable resource acquisition, energy optimization, net metering, smart grid review and transmission planning issues. Mr. Proudfoot has a long history in the electric planning process. He managed the modeling component of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Plan and the MPSC's Capacity Need Forum. Formerly Mr. Proudfoot was responsible for managing the review of electric utility integrated resource plans and was also assigned to the Michigan Electricity Option Study as a technical advisor to the Project Director. He also has extensive experience in the natural gas sector serving as the State's Gas Safety Program Manager for over ten years where he helped establish The Michigan Damage Prevention Board and served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives.

**Dan Schrauben**  
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Dan Schrauben is a certified farm and rural business energy auditor. He has provided certified energy audits, renewable energy assessments and funding application assistance to farms and rural businesses. His services have included participation and review of more than 150 energy audits and renewable energy audits with many of those reports used to support USDA REAP grant applications. Dan's has provided energy audits and renewable energy assessments to dairy, grain drying, greenhouses, irrigation, turkey, swine and variety of other businesses in rural areas such as; tool and die, car wash, automotive parts manufacturing, farm markets, wineries, fruit & vegetable processing, meat packing, and maple syrup operations. Although facilities vary in what they produce the energy audit format is similar and the content is structured specifically to each operation. Dan has served as an instructor for several Energy Audit certification classes, and as presenter for a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education webinar sponsored by the University of Wisconsin, at the Michigan Energy Fair, and at Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable & Farm Market Expo. Dan has more than 40 years of consulting engineering project experience as the primary client contact, design engineer and project manager for civil engineering, landscape architecture and surveying firms, which included managing my own company for over 10 years. Clientele has included private and municipal sectors with project involvement from conceptual planning through construction stages. Dan received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University.

**Timothy Schultz**, President  
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Timothy Schultz is the President of Terra Caloric. He has 28 years of experience in manufacturing and business development. He received an M.B.A. and a B.S. in Engineering from Western Michigan University.

**Rick Vanderbeek**, Business Program Specialist  
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Rick has over 28 total years credit experience in the private and public sectors. Rick was born and raised in Ithaca, Michigan, located in Gratiot County. After graduating from Ithaca High School, he attended and graduated from Michigan State University with a B.S. Degree in Ag. Economics & Finance. Work experience started with Farm Credit Services of Southwest Ohio in the Eaton, Wilmington, and Washington Courthouse local offices. During the 3 years at FCS, Rick worked in short, intermediate, and long term credit, along with some real estate appraisal. After working for Farm Credit Services, Rick had an opportunity to return to Michigan where he worked as the Credit Manager of B & W Co-op, Inc. for 12 years. Duties included working with secured and unsecured credit of approximately 7000 patrons. Rick started working in the public sector for USDA Rural Development Business Programs in Fall of 2002. He is a Business & Cooperative Specialist where his duties are processing and servicing B & I Guaranteed Loans and Rural Business Enterprise Grants. Additionally, Rick is the Energy Coordinator for Michigan and manages the Energy Programs for Michigan USDA Rural Development.

**Jon VanderKolk**, Managing Partner  
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See Case study.

**Duane Watson**, Agricultural Specialist  
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Duane Watson is the boots on the ground Agricultural Program Specialist, delivering the Consumers Energy Business Energy Efficiency Program to electric and natural gas farm customers. Diverse incentives for residential to large commercial agricultural farms and businesses are offered with 40 agriculture specific and over 250 total prescriptive program measures along with specifically tailored custom measure options. Duane is a Michigan Farm Bureau and GLREA member and lives on a centennial cash crop/forestry operations farm in the Lansing area. He has installed 37.7 kW of solar including 18 kW at his Shiawassee County farm and 5.2 kW as part of a “green” residential building project in Mecosta County. Duane holds bachelor degrees in Agricultural Engineering and Vocational Agricultural Education and a master’s degree in Vocational/Technical Education and Administration from Michigan State University. He also completed a fellowship at Colorado School of Mines and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory developing training programs and materials for energy efficiency technicians sponsored by the United States Department of Energy. He is a licensed residential builder, holds full vocational authorization and secondary teaching certifications, NABCEP solar PV installation certification and Train the Trainer certifications in biofuel production/utilization and grid-tied/battery based residential and commercial solar photovoltaic systems. He is also a certified Solar Professional Trainer through Solar Energy International, one of the industry’s most rigorous programs.

**Joanmarie and Roger Weiss**, Owners  
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See case study.

**Ken Zebarah**, Territory Sales Manager (MI,  
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Ken Zebarah designs solar photovoltaic systems as small as 10 kW and as large as 1 MW. He received his B.S. in mathematics and physics from Eastern Michigan University. He joined the Harvest Energy Solutions in 2013.



