



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Executive Action Summary

Committee Name-Attachment 2

**APPROVED**  
**DECEMBER 15, 2023**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Committee Name** Budget and Finance

**Date:** December 15, 2023

**Agenda Item:** MSU Dairy Teaching and Research Center Farmland Acquisition

**Information**

**Review**

**Action**

**Resolution:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby authorizes the Administration to purchase approximately 260 acres of land located in Onondaga, Michigan to support the Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Center upon such terms and conditions as may be acceptable to the President or the President’s designee(s).

**Recommendation:**

The Trustee Committee on Budget and Finance recommends that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Administration to purchase land to support the feed production for the expanding dairy cattle herd.

**Prior Action by BOT:** No prior action on land purchase. Proposed purchase supports the expansion of the herd contemplated for the Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Facility approved in October 2023.

**Responsible Officers:** Daniel Bollman, Vice President for Strategic Infrastructure Planning and Facilities  
Barbara Kranz, Assistant Provost, Institutional Space Planning and Management

**Summary:**

A land purchase in 2023 will ensure the necessary land is acquired in advance of facility completion (December 2025) and facilitate enhanced feed production and availability in 2024 and 2025. The Real Estate Office has been monitoring the real estate market for potential farmland acquisition. The availability of significant tracts of farmland has been limited, and the proposed property presented itself

as an opportunity during November. The property identified is the closest available property (approximately 22 miles from campus) of sufficient size and quality to support feed production needs. At the time of Authorization to Proceed for the Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Center in October 2023, the need for a future additional land resource need was identified. However the availability of nearby farmland for acquisition was not determined.

**Background Information:**

Land on south campus is already fully committed to research and feed production for existing farms. The purchase of this land will support the expansion of the Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Center. The land is needed for feed production to accommodate the increase in the herd size from 220 to 680 cows. The expansion of herd size is necessary to meet modern needs for teaching that align with today's industry standards and address a 2-year backlog of research. The alternative to the purchase of land is the purchase of feed from the open market. However, the volatility of the market and availability of silage (major feed component) make this alternative less viable.

**Source of Funds:**

- Agricultural Land Fund
- AgBio Research Funds

**Resource Impact:**

This land purchase provides stability for dairy operations feed production and reduces reliance on volatile feed market for the expanded dairy herd.