



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Executive Action Summary

Committee Name Budget & Finance

Date December 13, 2024

Agenda Item: Authorization to Purchase Property – CANR/AgBioResearch - Willoughby Road

Information

Discussion

Action

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby authorizes the Administration to purchase approximately 92 acres of land located in Alaiedon Township, 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:

The Board of Trustees previously authorized the purchase of property in Onondaga, MI on December 15, 2023 for this purpose. Subsequent to the board action, the purchase of the property was not completed. This property in Alaiedon Township is much closer to MSU campus. The proposed purchase supports the expansion of the herd contemplated for the Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Facility, a project approved by the Board 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 now will ensure the necessary land is acquired in advance of facility completion (December 2025) and facilitate enhanced feed production and availability in 2025. The Real Estate Office has been monitoring the real estate market for potential farmland acquisition since mid-2023. The availability of significant tracts of farmland has been limited. The property identified is approximately 3 miles from campus and 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 herd size expansion 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 (a major feed component) make this alternative less viable.

Source of Funds:

- Agricultural Land Fund

Resource Impact:

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

Property Purchase

CANR AgBioResearch – Willoughby Road

Dan Bollman, Vice President for
Strategic Infrastructure Planning &
Facilities

