

Solar Energy Event Provides Insight to Agribusiness Owners in West Michigan

August 3, 2016 – Harvest Energy Solutions, along with Farm Bureau of Allegan County sponsored a **Solar Energy in Agriculture** lunch ‘n learn event on Tuesday, August 2, 2016. The event was hosted by Gary and Karen Balder, Balder Farms in Hamilton, MI.

Attended by 50 West Michigan farm and business owners; along with incumbent State Representative for the 80th District of House of Representatives, Mary Whiteford; Charles Gould with Michigan State University’s agriculture extension, Michigan Farm Bureau and media guests.

The event provided information and insight into making a conscientious decision on the untapped value of solar energy. Speakers included industry experts in the design, distribution and installation of renewable energy from Harvest Energy Solutions. Area farmers and agribusiness owners also shared their experiences on how they have benefited from their investments solar energy. Attendees were able to get a firsthand look at the roof-mount solar array at the Balder Farm, and watched how the energy from the sun ticked away on the meter.



“This system supplies about 90 percent of the energy used on our farm,” said Gary Balder. He also showed the last couple of month’s electric bills showing better than a \$500 credit (per month) associated with the energy produced by his solar energy system.

Renewable energy can be used in agriculture in a number of ways – saving money, increasing self-reliance, and reducing carbon emissions. Home owners, farmers and businesses across the country are installing renewable

energy systems to reduce their electric bills. Many farms and agribusinesses, with their open acreage and/or large buildings, can install enough solar energy to pay their entire electric bill, or at least reduce costly seasonal electricity rates.

“We realize that educating the agricultural community on the value of renewable energy is critical to helping the interested buyer in making an informed decision,” said Mark Olinyk, President/CEO of Harvest Energy Solutions. “We are proud to partner with Michigan Farm Bureau to provide this beneficial forum to educate and answer questions.”

Harvest Energy has installed more than a dozen solar energy systems in West Michigan over the past year, including several grain and livestock farms, large fruit growers’ operations, several wineries, one of the largest dairy operations in the area, as well as a community solar garden for Laketown Township at Felt Mansion Estates.

For more than 10 years, Harvest Energy Solutions’ mission has been to support the agriculture industry and the people who have dedicated their lives to farming, ranching and agribusiness.



Harvest Energy Solutions is a full-service distributor, engineer and installer of renewable and energy saving products, specializing in rural, agricultural and commercial energy solutions throughout the Midwest. Since 2006, Harvest Energy's goal has been to assist farmers, business and home owners, in becoming more sustainable, efficient and energy independent. Products include solar and wind energy systems, off-grid solar, HVLS fans, solar water pumps, LED agricultural lighting, solar canopy charging tables, log cabins and storm shelters. For more information visit www.HarvestEnergySolutions.com or call 1-877-788-0220.

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