



MI Ag CORE (Communication, Organization, Relationships, and Engagement) is a development opportunity for any farmer or agricultural professional interested in advancing their leadership skills and experience.

The year-long program consists of seven (7) total sessions (4 in-person and 3 virtual) that cover topics including:

- Personality profiles, creating team culture, managing dysfunction, friction, and strong personalities, employee engagement, servant leadership;
- Overview of human resources topics and legal issues related to employment practices and workplace safety;
- Organizational governance;
- Public speaking, issue advocacy, and communication;

The proposed educational opportunities will allow participants to gain specific tools to generate measurable results. Developing interpersonal skills and the ability to manage family and business relationships in a productive and meaningful manner leads to a strong farm culture and the ability to attract, grow, and retain multi-generational talent.

The MI Ag CORE program is limited in class size. **Interested parties must submit a completed, online application by November 1, 2026.** No prior leadership training is required. Applicants will be notified by December 1, 2026, regarding their acceptance into the program. Upon acceptance, a \$300 participation fee will be invoiced and payment must be received by December 15, 2026.

MI Ag Core Leadership Program Overview

Session	Date	Location	Description
Welcome and DiSC® , <i>An introspective look.</i>	January 19, 2027 10am - 4pm January 20, 2027 8:30am - 12:30pm	In-Person	Program introduction, personalized content deepens self-understanding through the DiSC® model.
Teambuilding with DiSC® , <i>Bringing everyone to the table or sending them out the door.</i>	February 10, 2027 8am - noon	Virtual	Attendees gain insight into their own preferences and tendencies, learn more about relating to others, and receive actionable strategies to help them improve their interactions and ultimately, their performance.
Communication, Public Presentations & Advocacy , <i>Anyone can talk, but how can I be most effective?</i>	March 17, 2027 10am - 4pm	In-Person	Feel at ease sharing your thoughts, opinions, and representing others when talking with legislators, leaders, and the public. Sharpen your written, verbal, and advocacy skills through hands-on activities, practice, and evaluation. Includes a MI Capitol visit with legislators.
Social Media Skills , <i>How to engage your audience.</i>	June 8, 2027 9am - 4pm	In-Person	At the end of the session, others will want to hear what you have to say. It's as simple as following a few key steps to ensure your point is heard.
Organizational Governance , <i>Why does it matter, when will I use it?</i>	July 14, 2027 10am - 11:30am	Virtual	Discover how governance differs from management, how to use governance as a powerful tool and how governance is implemented.
Virtual Media Training Workshop	August 19, 2027 9am - noon	Virtual	Gain the essential skills to communicate your message, mission, and vision during interviews with the news media.
Human Resources , <i>What you really need to know about people.</i>	November 23, 2027 9am - 4pm	In-Person	Overview of various HR issues as they relate to any management or leadership position. Learn how effective leaders move their organizations forward.
Final Session <i>Putting the pieces together.</i>			Intentional, dynamic review of the program learning objectives for participants to connect ideas and build larger conceptual understandings. Celebrate success.