



# Michigan Food & Farming Systems-MIFFS

Bringing Farmers & Communities Together

## MIFFS MEMO

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**MIFFS Annual Meeting**  
March 4, 2008, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Kellogg Center, Room 62

*Read more on page 3!*



**By: Emily Buckham**  
*Communications Specialist*

Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS) is celebrating 10 years of serving Michigan family farms.

This year, in 2008, MIFFS is working on a range of projects that span the gamut of sustainable agriculture, from promoting local food consumption and marketing opportunities through the Michigan Farmers Market Association to extending growing seasons with unheated hoophouses to growing diversity in the world of agriculture with the multicultural farmers program.

We just finished partnering on the fifth annual Michigan Family Farms Conference and are already starting planning for its sixth year. In September, we look forward to co-hosting the fourth "Buy Fresh, Buy Local

– Select Michigan Day" with the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The organization just keeps growing with overflowing ideas, projects and successes, all building toward a stronger and healthier tomorrow for today's food systems.

And it all started with a small group of people dedicated to making sustainable agriculture a reality in Michigan.

In 1993, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation launched its Integrated Farming Systems initiative with 18 community demonstration models that were established across the United States to develop, test and implement sustainable farming practices.

The Michigan Agriculture Stewardship Association formed the Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems project from that grant. That project blossomed in 1998 and, led by

the late Tom Guthrie, it became the MIFFS that we know today, the membership-based nonprofit organization dedicated to securing a strong, sustainable future for small, family farmers in Michigan.

In its early years, MIFFS' mission was to promote diverse community efforts to foster and sustain food and agriculture systems that improve economic, ecological and social well-being. Farmland preservation, urban agriculture and forestry, alternative marketing and education were some of MIFFS' earlier focuses, designed to grow new farmers and promote good land stewardship.

MIFFS Marketline, the Buy Local campaign and the multicultural farmers program followed as MIFFS reached out to family farmers, providing them

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**Michigan Food & Farming Systems-MIFFS**  
Bringing Farmers & Communities Together

**MIFFS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Chair: Howard Straub  
Vice-Chair: Joe Colyn  
Michael DiRamio  
Cindy Dutcher  
Joanetta Greer-O'Bryant  
Lucy Hartlove  
Doug Kirkpatrick  
John Malcomson  
Susan Smalley  
Ron Steiner

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**Director's Report: Winter 2008**

**The Conference Season**

**By Elaine Brown**  
*Executive Director*

The year of 2008 is off to a running start, and January is already history. On January 19, we had the pleasure of partnering to present the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Family Farms Conference in Battle Creek. Read more about this year's success on page 6. The Northern Michigan Small Farms Conference and the Real Food Conference occurred on January 26, the Michigan Organic Conference is set for February 29 - March 1, and at least a half a dozen other conferences, workshops and meetings fall in between! Not to mention that this is a National Agricultural Census year, and we have forms that need to be completed and returned to USDA.

All of the farm organizations I know are figuring out how to hold their meetings between the end of harvest and the spring, when farmers get back into their fields and are too busy to attend meetings, seminars and workshops.

These meetings present excellent opportunities to learn about topics of interest, everything from hoophouse production and CSAs to marketing, alternative energy systems and grant writing. You can be inspired by keynote speakers who love the

land and local food systems and network with others to learn how to implement a new project. Across regions of the state or regions of the country, there are lessons to be learned about farming and food systems.

Those of us who serve farmers have been meeting to develop programs that meet the risk challenges farmers face every day. We look at what we have done, what others have done and how we can build on past learning to enable farmers to try new strategies. Farmers are a careful and thoughtful group that often require some time working the land to contemplate new ideas and strategies to determine how effective they may be for achieving the goals of the farm.

MIFFS has been busy supporting the success of farmers through the 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Family Farms Conference, hoophouse and ag census workshops, "Meet the Buyer" events that link retailers and distributors to Michigan farmers, and other meetings with partner organizations that leverage the strengths of each partner and build future opportunities in Michigan agriculture, such as launching the Michigan Farmers Market Association.

We look forward to seeing our members at the MIFFS annual meeting on March



4, 2008 from 7-9 p.m. at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. This annual meeting will include reflections on our 10-year history, election of Council members, a by-law change and a discussion about hoophouse production.

Please make every effort to attend and invite your friends and family. You can learn more about the slate of candidates and the proposed by-law change by visiting the MIFFS Web site at [www.miffs.org](http://www.miffs.org) where information is regularly updated and news and opportunities are posted each week.

It is the season to set goals for the year, look at what can we do better and how we can continue to contribute our ideas, time and resources to local food systems work.

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**MIFFS' purpose is to advance and sustain food and farming systems in which agricultural productivity, environmental stewardship and profitability reinforce each other for the benefit of Michigan's rural and urban communities.**

# MIFFS Organization Updates

## Join us at the MIFFS Annual Meeting on March 4!

**By: Emily Buckham**  
*Communications Specialist*

Interested in local food systems and sustainable agriculture? Looking for new marketing opportunities or production practices? Come to the Michigan Food & Farming Systems – MIFFS Annual Meeting to celebrate our 10-year anniversary, network with other farmers in the state, meet the MIFFS team and learn how you can be more involved in healthy and sustainable food systems in Michigan.

The MIFFS Annual Meeting is set for March 4, 2008 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Conference Room 62, during Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at Michigan State University. In addition

to meeting other farmers in the state, hear about what MIFFS has accomplished this past year our plans for the future to help Michigan's family farmers.

This year, Elaine Brown, MIFFS Executive Director, will be celebrating MIFFS hard work and successes over the past decade. We have come a long way in 10 years in shaping Michigan's agriculture and food systems, and we continue to grow.

In addition, Adam Montri, MIFFS Hoophouse Project Manager and MSU Student Organic Farm Outreach Specialist, will engage members and attendees on how some Michigan farmers are using unheated hoopouses to grow produce through extended seasons and even year-round. Come to share your experiences

and ask questions on construction, production, marketing, profitability and more.

All members and people interested in family farms and sustainable agriculture are invited and encouraged to attend to hear what's happening at MIFFS and network with one another. Active members will also nominate and vote for new Council members and vote on by-law changes.

Encourage those you know who are interested in local food, sustainable agriculture and family farms to attend the meeting and join. To join or learn more about MIFFS, visit [www.miffs.org](http://www.miffs.org) or contact (517) 432-0712 or [miffs@msu.edu](mailto:miffs@msu.edu).

We hope to see you there! Please contact the MIFFS office to RSVP.

## Director's Report (continued)

*Continued from page 2*

Please consider a donation to support MIFFS' good works, and renew your membership to keep up with our food systems activities.

We welcome your ideas, time and talents to help us grow MIFFS and the local food system in Michigan. Contact me at [browne@msu.edu](mailto:browne@msu.edu) or call the office (517) 432-0712 any time to participate in this important work.

As the spring growing season approaches, the MIFFS Council and Staff wish you well as you enjoy many warm gatherings with family and friends. May 2008 be a year filled with the new ideas, opportunities and successes for you, your family and community.

## Articles in this Memo:

### Director's Report:

- The Conference Season – Elaine Brown, Executive Director

### MIFFS Organization Updates:

- MIFFS Annual Meeting – Emily Buckham, Communications Specialist
- MIFFS Membership Update – Jana Nicol, Administrative Assistant
- Getting to Know MIFFS - John Fisk

### Assisting Family Farmers

- Michigan Gets 15 New Certified Pesticide Applicators – Morse Brown, Multicultural Farmers Program Manager
- Michigan Family Farms Conference Celebrated 5 Years – Emily Buckham, Communications Specialist

### Growing Marketing Opportunities

- "Meet the Midwest Buyers Reception" Opened Doors for Michigan Produce Growers – Emily Buckham, Communications Specialist
- Michigan Farmers Markets Association Elects its First Board of Directors – Dru Montri, MIFMA Project Manager

### Supporting Agricultural Stewardship

- A Hoophouse for Any Farm or Any Budget – Adam Montri, Hoophouse Project Manager

### Informing and Influencing Public Policy

- MIFFS Meets with Don Koivisto, New MDA Director, to Talk Food Systems – Emily Buckham, Communications Specialist

### Events and Opportunities

- MIFMA Farmers Market Manager "Boot Camp"
- Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at Michigan State University

### MIFFS Members

### Donors and Sponsors

### Calendar of Events

A few of this articles are featured on the following pages to give you a glimpse of what MIFFS does. To read all of these articles, join MIFFS now by visiting [www.miffs.org/join.asp](http://www.miffs.org/join.asp).

Or, if you're already a MIFFS member, contact the MIFFS Office at (517) 432-0712 or email [miffs@msu.edu](mailto:miffs@msu.edu) to get an electronic copy of the Memo in color!

## Getting to Know MIFFS



John Fisk

Integrated Farming Systems project in 1993, he got involved before MIFFS even got on its feet as an organization.

**You've been a part of MIFFS since the beginning. How have you been involved?**

I was at the meeting when the project was coming to an end, and we were trying to figure out what we were going to do with ourselves.

I joined not long after MIFFS became an NGO (nongovernmental organization). (*John was one of the first members to join MIFFS and has sustained an active membership ever since*). I was on the Board of Directors the first year and was the Chair a year or two after that.

When Tom Guthrie was the executive director and I was the council president in 2004, we worked together to write a proposal to WKKF to sustain MIFFS work, and I was written into that as a project director.

**You've been with MIFFS for ten years. How have you seen it grow over the years?**

MIFFS has become an accepted part of the establishment of agriculture. It's a voice of change, a voice of sustainability. There is a sense that MIFFS is a trusted partner with new ideas and new resources; it brings new thinking.

**Why has it been important to you to be a MIFFS member?**

MIFFS is a point of leverage for change, which is powerful. I wanted to be a part of it.

MIFFS has an integrated approach to solving problems in food systems. It's about more than just growing organic or helping farmers; it's working for institutional change as much as for it is for sustainability as much as it is for farmers.

Agriculture and farmers are a piece of this; they are the core to food systems. They need information, assistance, and to be worked with in a respectful way to find solutions to the problems in food systems.

That's the beauty of MIFFS. We're in this together, working together to find solutions. That was Tom's gift, getting out there with the growers and partners, just being an honest broker and a good farmer.

MIFFS represents the best opportunity for systemic change for food systems in Michigan. That's why I got involved.

### What he's doing now...

John Fisk is now the director of the H.A. Wallace Center for Sustainable Food Systems at Winrock International, which recently partnered with MIFFS and the Michigan Value Chain Partners to sponsor the "Meet the Midwest Buyers" Reception in December. (Read more on page 7.) John is an expert in sustainable agriculture, with a bachelor's in Environmental Studies - Agroecology from the University of California, Santa Cruz; a master's degree in agronomy from the University of Missouri-Columbia; and a doctorate in crop and soil sciences from Michigan State University, where he was a C.S. Mott Graduate Fellow in Sustainable Agriculture.

Under John's leadership, the Wallace Center is accelerating the development of sustainable and community-based food systems work through a partnership with WKKF's Food and Society (FAS) initiative. Key objectives include deepening knowledge, developing models, and building capacity to serve nonprofit sector leaders and food and farming entrepreneurs. In addition, the Wallace Center is developing key indicators for sustainable and community based food systems that will be useful to national, regional and local organizations.

## Celebrating 10 years... (continued)

*Continued from page 1*

resources to improve networks, gain knowledge and sell their products.

MIFFS was instrumental in developing the Michigan Partnership for Product Agriculture, which has since grown into the Michigan State University Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Our organization received the grant to do the feasibility studies that jumpstarted the Starting Block, Inc. kitchen incubator in Hart with another in development in Bad Axe. We partnered with MDA to celebrate the first, second and third "Buy Fresh, Buy Local - Select Michigan Days" which attracted hundreds to the Capitol lawn for a special farmers markets and received local, state and national attention.

MIFFS' mission is still based around the triple bottom line: economy, environment and social well-being. We still serve Michigan's family farms and are working harder than ever to connect farmers with their communities and with opportunities to become more successful and sustainable. Now, with our innovative staff, council and members, we are growing our organizational capacity and reaching out in new ways and new directions.

We thank you for being a part of MIFFS, for supporting us, for growing with us. We have accomplished so much in 10 years, but there is so much work to do to keep our farmers and consumers connected and Michigan's agricultural industry healthy and strong. Please stay with us and continue to support us as we catalyze change to improve today's food systems for a better tomorrow.

As we look back over the past 10 years, we see dreams realized, goals met and a better future for Michigan farmers. And, we believe that, with your help, the best is yet to come!!

# Assisting Family Farmers

## Michigan gets 15 new certified pesticide applicators

By: Morse Brown

Multicultural Farmers Program Manager

Larry Swain, Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Certification and IPM Program Manager, was pleasantly surprised when arriving at the first session of the Pesticide Education Workshop last fall when he saw the parking lot at Maria's Lonestar Hometown Restaurant and Pub full of pickup trucks and cars. Most of those vehicles belonged to the 26 Hispanic farmers waiting anxiously inside for their first workshop sessions on pesticide education, hosted by MDA and Michigan Food & Farming Systems - MIFFS.

These workshops, held on November 14, 28 and December 15, 2007, were planned to provide training to our minority and limited resource farmers in Michigan, who are mostly Hispanics and African Americans. This workshop was unique because, for the first time, we had 26 Hispanics and two African American farmers attend. We also had one Caucasian female. The congratulations for this turnout can be attributed to excellent on-on-one contact work done by Estella Rodriquez, MIFFS Multicultural Farmers Program



Antonio Castro-Escobar, MDA, introduces George Heffner, NRCS Outreach Worker, to pesticide education participants.

Hispanic Outreach Coordinator.

The culmination of these three workshops resulted in 15 farmers being certified as Private Applicators. The pesticide exam was given on December 15, 2007, and 100% of those taking the exam passed!

Larry Swain and Antonio Castro-Escobar of MDA and myself, Morse Brown, MIFFS Multicultural Farmer Program Manager, planned and presented these programs to the interested farmers.

This was the first time that we taught most of the classes in Spanish, and I translated in English because the majority of our workshop attendees were Hispanic. We thought that this was a nice problem to have since most of the growth in the farm population in southwest Michigan is Hispanic farmers.

The partnership between the MDA and MIFFS began when MIFFS was founded ten years ago. Larry Swain, MDA Certification and IPM Program Manager, was already working with limited resource and minority farmers, especially in southwest Michigan with the fast-growing population of Hispanic farmers when MIFFS got involved.

MDA and MIFFS in this partnership have certified more minorities and limited resource farmers than any other organizations in Michigan. This has happened because we focus intently on reaching these audiences. We are proud of our effort because of the positive impact of having farmers equipped with the knowledge of proper pesticide application, which results in saving lives and preventing illnesses related to improper pesticide use.

We look forward to partnering and doing more of this work in 2008.

## Michigan Family Farms Conference Celebrated Five Years on January 19, 2008 with biggest crowd ever!

By: Emily Buckham

Communications Specialist

"New Times, New Opportunities" was more than just a conference theme on January 19 when as nearly 400 participants from all across Michigan, and even as far as Indiana, Illinois and Ohio, flocked to Battle Creek for the 2008 Michigan Family Farms Conference.

"This is the biggest conference we've ever had," said Scott Corrin, who is the MIFFS programs administrator and serves on the event's planning committee. "It just keeps getting bigger and better each year, and it's exciting for us to see that growth."

The conference focused on more than just keeping family farms in business. Sessions organized into six tracks – alternative energy, marketing, production, management, Spanish-speaking and grant-writing – helped farmers address nearly every issue one might face in today's world of agriculture, from rising energy prices to marketing opportunities to conservation and business plans.

There to share his own experiences was keynote speaker David Kline, from eastern Ohio who is an Amish farmer, bishop, naturalist, writer and the editor of Farming Magazine.

"Without good food, there is no good life," said Kline

as he reminded participants that *everyone* is connected to agriculture. He stressed that sustainability, land stewardship and community support are vital to producing good food and that farming – it is more than a job or a hobby – it is a livelihood. To keep that legacy alive, he stressed that we must romance today's youth into agriculture to keep it alive, vibrant and growing.

The Farm Research Cooperative and the USDA Risk Management Agency have partnered for five years to make this conference happen, bringing together a diverse group of farmers, experts and resources to make sustainable, profitable agriculture a reality for farmers of

all ages, ethnicities and production practices.

Other partners and sponsors for the event included Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, National Agricultural Statistics Service (Michigan office), the Potawatomi Resource, Conservation and Development Council, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, the C.S. Mott Chair of Sustainable Agriculture, Cornerstone Ag, the Eastern Market Corporation and the Michigan State University Student Organic Farm, who donated fresh, local and organic salad greens for the conference lunch.

# Growing Marketing Opportunities

## “Meet the Midwest Buyers Reception” Opened Doors for Michigan Produce Growers



The Michigan Value Chain Partners gather together to celebrate success at the end of the “Meet the Buyers Reception.”

**By: Emily Buckham**  
*Communications Specialist*

Michigan produce farmers finally found some wide open doors to wholesale buyers as they connected with representatives at the “Meet the Midwest Buyers Reception,” hosted by the Michigan Value Chain Partners.

The reception took place on December 4 during the 2007 Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo and attracted more than 80 farmers and representatives from agricultural industry and commodity groups, in addition to the 10 buyers present from Whole Foods Market, Meijer, Sodexho, Sysco-Grand Rapids, Superior Sales/Gordon Food Service, Testa Produce and Goodness Greeness.

“It gave us an opportunity to meet face to face with the buyers,” said Sarah McGuire of Royal Farms Inc. “It was a door opener, and the buyers finally got a face to go with the product.” Royal Farms provided their cherry juice as refreshment at the reception, which featured local foods and beverages from around the state.

“Linking producers and potential buyers is exciting, and we were thrilled with the

success of the event,” said Elaine Brown, executive director of Michigan Food & Farming Systems – MIFFS. “Helping family farms get their fresh, local product onto store shelves is so important, and we need to fix the gaps in value chains to make sure that happens.”

Buyers were impressed with the quality of product produced by the growers and some orders transpired at the event, including 1000 lbs. of fresh chestnuts sold to Meijer Retail Stores.

“Meijer Retail Stores was proud to be one of the sponsors of this event and welcomes every opportunity to be with our local growers and work with them to bring locally produced foods onto our store shelves. Our thanks to the ‘Midwest Value Chain Partners’ for hosting this worthwhile event,” said Jim Spilka, Vice-President of Produce for Meijer Retail Stores.

The Michigan Value Chain Partners (MVCP), which include MIFFS, FamilyFarmed.org and the Association of Family Farms, are working with buyers in the Midwest to help producers and wholesalers develop partnerships along value chains, from building business plans to packing

and moving crates to market, to providing families with a steady, consistent supply of the food they want, from local, family farms they can trust.

A short program during the reception featured welcoming comments from Jim Slama, Director of FamilyFarmed.org, and Elaine Brown, Executive Director of MIFFS, along with a farmer’s perspective from Allen Williams, Tallgrass Beef and Board member of the Association of Family Farms. Buyers, Whole Foods Market, Sodexho and Meijer, also addressed the producers with encouraging comments about focusing on local food and family farmers and strengthening value chains in the Midwest.

“It felt like we made headway,” said McGuire about the opportunity to get her family’s cherry products on store shelves. “We’ll be following up with buyers – we have names now!”

Representatives from each of the buyers included: Jim Spilka, Kyle Kempster and Scott Calandra from Meijer; Lori Tatreau, David Lewis, Carole Peterson and Bobby Lewis from Whole Foods Market; Randy Rowlings from Sodexho; Denis Jennisch from Sysco-Grand Rapids; Todd DeWaard, Randy VandeGuch and Mitch Gasche from Superior Sales; Alice Shutway and Courtney Barton from Testa Produce; and David Allen from Goodness Greeness.

This event was made possible by the following sponsors: Meijer; GreenStone Farm Credit Services; the Wallace Center at Winrock International; the C.S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture at Michigan State University (MSU); Whole Foods Market; the Nowlin Chair for Consumer Responsive Agriculture – MSU; Michigan Farm Bureau, Morse Marketing Connections, LLC; Fluid; Originz, LLC; and the Michigan Department of Agriculture Select Michigan Program.

This event was sponsored and implemented by the Wallace Center National Value Chain Network through the MVCP. This team will be following up with growers and buyers and are making plans to host “grower readiness” training for those growers not yet ready to participate in the value chain to supply product to these buyers.

# Thank you MIFFS Members!


We would like to say thank you to all of our new members and to those who have renewed by recognizing them quarterly in the MIFFS Memo. The list below is all of the MIFFS members who have joined or renewed since November 2007.

We will continue to recognize members in each issue of the Memo as a way of saying thanks while we continue to reach out to our Michigan urban and rural communities and improve upon our services and membership benefits.

MIFFS would love to fill this page each time, so remember to renew and encourage your friends to consider joining MIFFS and supporting Michigan agriculture! Read more about MIFFS membership and benefits on page 3 or visit [www.miffs.org](http://www.miffs.org).

## MIFFS Members who have joined or renewed since November 2007:

Jim Bingen, East Lansing	Don Iott, Nottawa Fruit Farm, Sturgis
George Bird, Holt	Thomas Kalchik, East Lansing
Roseanne Bloomer, Ann Arbor	Melville Kennedy, Davison
Elaine Brown, Laingsburg	John Malcomnson, Davison
Pamela Burke, Remus	Michigan State University Extension
Tina Cameron, Leslie	Adam and Dru Montri, Bath
Barry Conservation District, Hastings	Jana Nicol, Lansing
Keith Creagh, Williamston	Oryana Food Cooperative
Kenneth Dahlberg, Kalamazoo	Bob and Susan Pigg, Okemos
Michael DiRamio, Ann Arbor	Estella Rodriguez, South Haven
Larry Dyer, Barnesville, OH	Dick Roth, Caseville
Ken and Jan Engle, Williamsburg	Shetler Family Dairy, Kalkaska
Robert Fisher, Farmington Hills	Jim Sluyter, Bear Lake
Mark Gillen, Laughing Acres Farm, East Lansing	South Central Michigan Grazing Groups, Jackson
Nancy Guthrie, Sunshine Prairie Farm, Delton	Michael and Julia Studier, Sodus
Oran Hesterman, Ann Arbor	Kable Thurlow, Gladwin
Innovative Farmers of SouthCentral Michigan, Marshall	



**Join MIFFS today! Call, email or visit us online at [www.miffs.org/join.asp](http://www.miffs.org/join.asp) for more information or to receive a membership form. If you are already a member or were in the past, **DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!** Contact the MIFFS office at (517) 432-0712 or [miffs@msu.edu](mailto:miffs@msu.edu). Only active MIFFS members receive the Memo.**

**Support the triple bottom line: economy, environment and the social well-being of Michigan communities!**

# Thank you MIFFS Donors and Sponsors

Thank you to the many people who generously donate their time and talents to support our programs and activities. MIFFS could not achieve our mission without your support.

## MIFFS Funders and Partners

Our funders and partners are the agencies and foundations that provide financial support and/or expertise to achieve mutually beneficial goals. Our funders and partners for 2008 so far are:

USDA Risk Management Agency	Project for Public Spaces
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	W.K. Kellogg Foundation
USDA Farm Service Agency	Wallace Center at Winrock International
USDA Rural Development	Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Michigan State University (MSU) Extension	Farm Research Cooperative
MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	West Michigan Strategic Alliance
MSU Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies	

## MIFFS Activities Sponsors

Our funders and partners are the agencies and foundations that provide financial support and/or expertise to achieve mutually beneficial goals. Our funders and partners since February 2007 are:

Meijer	Originz, LLC
GreenStone Farm Credit Services	MDA Select Michigan Program
Wallace Center at Winrock International	National Agricultural Statistics Service (Michigan)
C.S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture at MSU	Potawatomi RC&D
Whole Foods Market	C.S. Mott Chair of Sustainable Agriculture
Nowlin Chair for Consumer Responsive Agriculture - MSU	Cornerstone Ag, LLC
Michigan Farm Bureau	Eastern Market Corporation
Morse Marketing Connections, LLC	Michigan State University Student Organic Farm
Fluid	

## MIFFS Donors

Since February 2007, the following donors have supported Michigan Food & Farming Systems. We greatly appreciate their support and invite you to join them by making a tax-deductible donation to MIFFS. To learn more, please contact MIFFS by phone at (517) 432-0712 or visit [www.miffs.org](http://www.miffs.org).

Jon and Elaine Bartholic, Laingsburg	Marty Gerencer, North Muskegon	Jana Nicol, Lansing
Jan BenDor, Ypsilanti	Nancy Guthrie, Sunshine Prairie Farms, Delton	Terri Novak, Flint
Jim Bingen, Lansing	Lucy Hartlove, Lansing	Chris Peterson, East Lansing
Morse and Arma Brown, Livonia	Oran Hesterman, Ann Arbor	Bob and Susan Pigg, Okemos
Victoria Campbell-Arvai, Lansing	Don Iott, Nottawa Fruit Farm, Sturgis	Celeste Reed, Lansing
Scott and Jill Corrin, Grand Ledge	Thomas Kalchik, East Lansing	Estella Rodriguez, South Haven
Keith Creagh, Williamston	Doug Kirkpatrick, Herron	George Shetler, Kalkaska
Dill's Best Market, Delton	Jim Krenek, Grand Ledge	Susan Smalley, Lansing
Michael DiRamio, Ann Arbor	John Malcomnson, Davison	Ron Steiner, Hart
Dutcher Farms, Goetzville	Adam and Dru Montri, Bath	Howard Straub, St. Johns
Larry Dyer, Barnesville, OH	Mund Farm, Montague	Wendy Wieland, Ellsworth
John Fisk, Okemos		

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# Calendar of Events

## **February 23, March 8, 2008:**

“Mini-Schools for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)” ‘farmer to farmer’ discussion panels across the state. Read more on page 12 or visit [www.csafarms.org](http://www.csafarms.org).

- **February 23, 2008**, Kalamazoo, Michigan (Public Library - Downtown)
- **March 8, 2008**, Ann Arbor (Leslie Science Center - Nature House)

## **February 29 – March 8, 2008:**

MSU Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, East Lansing, MI. Read more at [www.canr.msu.edu/anrweek](http://www.canr.msu.edu/anrweek).

## **February 29 – March 1, 2008:**

2008 Michigan Organic Conference, Kellogg Center, MSU, East Lansing, MI. Visit [www.moffa.org](http://www.moffa.org) to learn more.

## **February 29, 2008:**

“Balancing Animal Agriculture and Communities Conference,” Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, MSU, East Lansing, MI. Visit [www.animalagteam.msu.edu](http://www.animalagteam.msu.edu) to learn more or to register.

## **March 4, 2008:**

Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) Boot Camp for Farmers Market Managers, Kellogg Center Room 106, MSU, East Lansing, MI from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Read more on page 11 or visit [www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu](http://www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu).

## **March 4, 2008:**

MIFFS Annual Meeting, Kellogg Center Room 62, MSU, East Lansing, MI from 7 - 9 p.m. Read more on page 3.

## **March 19, 2008:**

Ag Day at the Capitol. MIFFS will have a booth at the Capitol to connect with legislators and other agricultural commodity organizations.

## **April 3, 2008:**

Food System Economic Partnership Conference, Immaculate Heart of Mary Motherhouse, Monroe, MI.

## **April 25-27, 2008:**

“Chef’s Challenge Weekend: Fundraiser for Challenge Mountain,” Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire, MI. Register for your Chef’s Challenge Package at [www.shantycreek.com](http://www.shantycreek.com).

## **June 27–29, 2008:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Michigan Energy Conference, Manistee County Fairgrounds, Onekama, MI. Learn more at [www.glrea.org](http://www.glrea.org).

## **July 15-17, 2008:**

Ag Expo at Michigan State University. Visit [www.agexpo.msu.edu](http://www.agexpo.msu.edu) to learn more.

## **July 24, 2008:**

“Buy Local” Farmers Market, sponsored by MDA, east Capitol lawn, Lansing, MI.

## **August 6, 2008:**

Friends and Family Farms Field Day, Barbara Norman’s Farm in Covert, MI.

## **September 18, 2008:**

4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Buy Fresh, Buy Local – Select Michigan Day” with events around the state, including a MIFFS-sponsored farmers market on the east Capitol lawn, Lansing, MI.

Visit [www.miffs.org](http://www.miffs.org) for a continuously updated list of events or submit ideas to [miffs@msu.edu](mailto:miffs@msu.edu).