



Michigan Food & Farming Systems-MIFFS

Bringing Farmers & Communities Together

MIFFS MEMO

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Contact the MIFFS Office for an electronic copy of the Memo in color!

Join Us for the 2009 MIFFS Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009!

By: Emily Beutel
Communications Specialist

Calling all MIFFS Members! Join us for the 2009 Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS) Annual Meeting on Tuesday evening, March 10 in Kellogg Center Room 105 AB in East Lansing.

All members and interested folks are invited to learn what MIFFS has been up to this past year, see what plans are for 2009, vote on by-law changes, elect council members and more! If you or someone you know isn't a member but is a family farmer, local food enthusiast or just interested in sustainable agriculture in Michigan, this gathering is a great opportunity to learn more about MIFFS programs and connect with others, like our council, staff, partners and other members.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., we'll have a small networking reception for everyone to get acquainted and catch up over tea, coffee and cake. Being a statewide organization with members all over the state of Michigan, chances are there's someone you haven't met or haven't seen in a while, so join us before the meeting to catch up.

At 7 p.m., the meeting itself will begin. Hear about MIFFS activities, challenges and successes in 2008 and how our plans and funds are shaping up for 2009. Also, we will be voting

on a by-law change and will be electing council members, so don't miss this opportunity to exercise your MIFFS member voting privileges! If you'd like to run for the MIFFS council or would like to nominate someone, we have five positions opening up. Please contact MIFFS Council Vice-Chair and head of the Nominating Committee, Joe Colyn, at joe.colyn@juno.com or (269) 441-7280 for more information or to make your nomination.

After the meeting, Howard Straub, MIFFS Council President, and his wife, Mary Jo will share their knowledge and experience in pasture-based dairy systems from their years on Triple H Farms. Read more about Howard on page 4 in the "Getting to Know MIFFS" section.

Our meeting takes place during Michigan State University's Agriculture and Natural Resources

(ANR) Week, so there are plenty of other great educational and networking opportunities to take advantage of while you're in the area. Please see pages 11 and 12 for some other meetings and workshops pertaining to farmers markets, local food and sustainable production.

MIFFS is a recognized leader and resource to establish and develop more sustainable food and farming for Michigan, nurturing successful partnerships that result in healthy people and communities. Our mission is to advocate and initiate local food choices for healthy people and communities.

Our programs are organized around these core strategies: assisting family farmers, growing market opportunities, supporting agricultural stewardship, and informing and influencing public policy. Some of our current projects

2009 MIFFS Annual Meeting
 Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
 Kellogg Center Room 105 AB in East Lansing, MI

6:30 - 7 p.m. Registration and Networking with coffee, tea and cake
 7 p.m. Annual Meeting, featuring a review of the past year, plans for 2009, Council elections, voting on by-law changes, and more
 Presentation by Howard and Mary Jo Straub of Triple H Farms on how they made their family dairy operation a sustainable, pasture-based success with three of four children farming on their own today.



MIFFS COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chair: Howard Straub
Vice-Chair: Joe Colyn
Secretary/Treasurer: Lucy Hartlove
Keith Creagh
Joanetta Greer-O'Bryant
Tom Kalchik
Doug Kirkpatrick
Lori Phalen
Ron Steiner
Nicholas Welty
Dan Wyant

MIFFS STAFF

Executive Director:

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Michigan Farmers Market Association

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Multicultural Farmers Spanish-speaking Program Assistant:

Estella (Rodriguez) Smidt
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Director's Report: Winter 2009

The Farmer Meeting Season

By: Elaine Brown
Executive Director

With 18 inches of snowfall for January in the Lansing Area, everyone here is pretty much tired of winter and looking forward to spring. In the meantime, it is the season for farmer meetings. I hope you make it to some excellent ones!

A big thank you to all who attended, sponsored and in any way contributed to the success of our 6th annual Michigan Family Farms Conference! Despite the wintery weather, 280 participants came away energized with new ideas for their farming operations. We also thank those who supported the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo sessions in December. More than 360 people participated in the local food opportunities and food safety education sessions and the 2nd "Meet the Buyers" event on Dec. 9, 2008.

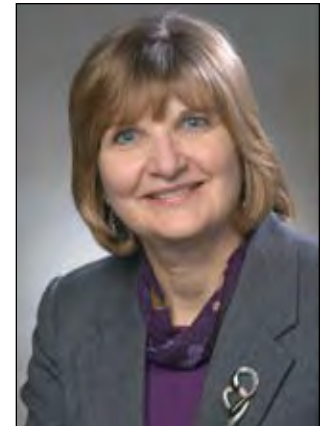
We are in full swing to host a series of meetings about Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Handling Practices (GHP) and certification to help farmers understand these tasks for selling into retail and wholesale markets. We are excited about collaborating with MSU Extension, the MSU Product Center for Agriculture and Natural

Resources and the Michigan Department of Agriculture to present these sessions. See page 10 for more details.

Plans are nearly complete for the MIFFS annual meeting at the MSU Kellogg Center on March 10, 2009. Be sure to mark your calendar for this evening opportunity to network with friends, elect Council members and hear about Triple H Farms' successful grass-based dairy operation. Read more about it on page 1.

The MIFFS Council Nominating Committee is seeking members interested in serving on the MIFFS Council. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Joe Colyn, Nominating Committee Chair, at joe.colyn@juno.com or myself for more information. We have a great Council, and we are always looking for new folks to serve on the Council or committees such as Ag Stewardship or Event Planning. We seek broad knowledge and experience from farmers through consumers who have a passion for local food systems.

With the rocky economy, all of us reassess our assets and opportunities. MIFFS is doing the same. We are economically stable at this time, yet actively looking for partners and funding opportunities to support our work later this year and next



year. We need to grow our membership and services to our farmers and their communities. We ask you to please take a moment to renew your membership and share with a friend, who may not be a MIFFS member, why you think it is important to support our organization. Please consider a donation to support MIFFS' good work as well. 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 or call the office (517) 432-0712 any time to participate in this important work.

Enjoy this planning and meeting time of year. Reflect on the successes and lessons learned from the last growing season and create your vision for a successful 2009 growing season.



Our Mission is to advocate and initiate local food choices for healthy people and communities.

MIFFS Organization Updates

Articles in this Memo:

Director's Report:

- The Farmer Meeting Season: Executive Director's Report

MIFFS Organization Updates:

- Join Us For the MIFFS Annual Meeting on March 10
- We Need You To Help Us With MIFFS Membership
- MIFFS Memo to Feature Advertising and Classified Ads in 2009
- Getting to Know MIFFS: Howard Straub, Jr. and Triple H Farms

Assisting Family Farmers

- 2009 Michigan Family Farms Conference Another Success!
- Fall and Winter Programs Aim at Pesticide Education
- Michigan Family Farms Conference Engages Youth

Growing Marketing Opportunities

- Farm Aid and MIFMA Grow Good Food
- Accepting SNAP Benefits at Farmers Markets
- "Meet the Buyers" Reception Makes Connections
- Michigan MarketMaker Can Help You!

Supporting Agricultural Stewardship

- Greetnigs from Ten Hens Farm!

Informing and Influencing Public Policy

- GAP and GHP Workshops Tackle Grower Certification

Events and Opportunities

MIFFS Members

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Calendar of Events

MIFFS Memo Advertising and Classified Ads

Looking to buy or sell farmland or equipment? Trying to get the word out about your farm or business? Have products or services to sell? Connecting farmers with opportunities is an important part of our work, so MIFFS is now featuring for the first time advertising and classified ads in the Memo.

The Memo goes out quarterly to MIFFS members, partners and funders and is always available at the MIFFS office or at events where we're present to spread the word about how we're working with Michigan farmers toward a brighter, more profitable and

sustainable future for our state's local food system. Its current distribution is nearly 400 copies per issue to growers, local food consumers, our partners and other ag organizations.

To express our gratitude for the support of our members and to help you connect with other members and opportunities around the state, MIFFS is offering its members one FREE classified ad each year and a 10% discount on ads. Classifieds will also be posted quarterly on the MIFFS Web site at www.miffs.org/classifieds.asp. All proceeds from these sales go toward

improving the Memo and other communications and supporting our staff and programs.

Need some help putting an ad together? We can also provide creative design work at an additional cost. MIFFS reserves the right to accept or deny ads based upon page space in the Memo and consistency with our mission and principles.

If you're interested in placing classified ad or advertising in the Memo, please contact Emily Beutel, Communications Specialist, at buckhame@msu.edu or (517) 432-0712.

MIFFS Annual Meeting

Continued from page 1

include working with multicultural farmers, increasing access to local food for all through the Michigan Farmers Market Association, extending Michigan's growing season with unheated hoopouses and getting more local food into restaurants and onto store shelves with our value chain work.

You don't have to be a member to attend, you just have to have a passion for local, sustainable food systems. Only members can vote, but attending the annual meeting is a great way to meet others who share your interests and learn more about what this organization is doing to help agricultural and family farms in the state.

To join or learn more about projects and initiatives, please visit us online at www.miffs.org, e-mail miffs@msu.edu or call the office at (517) 432-0712.

Ad Type	Size	Cost/issue	Cost/year	Member Cost
Eighth page	3.25" x 2.375"	\$30	\$96	\$27/\$86.40
Quarter page	3.25" x 4.75"	\$50	\$160	\$45/\$144
Half page	7.5" x 4.75"	\$80	\$256	\$72/\$230.40
Full page	7.5" x 9.5"	\$120	\$384	\$108/\$345.60

Classified ads: First 30 words/\$5 and .10/word over 30. Classifieds will also be posted quarterly on the MIFFS Web site, in correspondence with the Memo. MIFFS Members receive at 10% discount on advertising and one free 30-word ad per year. All advertisers receive a 20% discount when committing to one year (four issues) of advertising.

Getting to Know MIFFS

Howard Straub is the MIFFS Council President and has been serving in that position for nearly five years. In addition to that support to MIFFS, he also exemplifies our idea of a family farmer who runs his farm sustainably, makes money doing it and shares his knowledge and experience with anyone who wants help to improve their own viability.



Howard at the 2008 MIFFS Annual Meeting

Tell us a little bit about you and your farm.

Triple H Farms, which I run with my wife, Mary Jo, was established in 1972 with a herd of 26 cows. We were a confinement herd until 1993 when we switched to rotational grazing and seasonal milking after attending the Michigan Grazing Conference. We starting grazing on 22 acres that year, and now, we are milking 102 Holstein x Jersey cows on 140 acres of owned land and 112 acres of leased land.

You took a sustainable approach to your dairy operation early on. What made you take that approach, and how has that decision changed or affected your farm?

We made the change to rotational grazing initially to increase our net income. The environmental impact of that decision was a bonus that has made our farm more attractive to some wildlife and kept our topsoil on our farm. We also save on our expenses compared to many other dairies.

Our kids have seen that the pasture-based system really works, and three of the four of them have started farming using rotational grazing in Michigan and Ohio. They tell us if it were not for grazing they would not be interested in the dairy business.

You've been with MIFFS for many years as both a member and Council member. Why is this involvement important to you?

I'm not sure how long I have been involved with MIFFS (*he's been a MIFFS member since February 2000, a council member since 2001 and MIFFS Council President since 2004*), but being involved with an organization that believes in supporting farmers in their operations while at the same time helping consumers connect to local food sources like farmers markets has been a very rewarding experience for me. I will always stay involved as a member of MIFFS. Working with other council members is especially rewarding as we have members from various different areas of expertise, and I know I learn more from them than they do from me.

What are your hopes and vision for MIFFS in the coming year?

My vision for MIFFS is to move forward with the work that we do. Creating markets for farmers where there are none and helping solve issues that affect farmers and consumers is a priority for us.

Interested in seeing the full issue of the Memo, featuring 16 pages of articles, updates and opportunities for growers and local food enthusiasts?

Join MIFFS now to become a member! Visit www.miffs.org/join.asp or contact the MIFFS office at miffs@msu.edu or (517) 432-0712.

Assisting Family Farmers

2009 Michigan Family Farms Conference Another Success!

By: Emily Beutel
Communications Specialist

More than 280 farmers braved the wind, snow and freezing temperatures to attend this year's Michigan Family Farmers Conference on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at Lakeview High School in Battle Creek, Michigan.

"New Opportunities, Sustaining Local Agriculture for the Future" was the theme of this sixth annual conference, and the sessions held true to that theme, exploring great possibilities and opportunities for family farmers to make Michigan agriculture more sustainable and viable for future years and future generations.

Because this conference reaches out to small, limited resource farmers, it is unique not only in the diversity of its participants but the range of information covered, from business and marketing aspects of running a farm to sustainable and innovative production practices to resources available to help farmers improve their operations.

"No other conference in the state has the diversity that the Michigan Family Farms Conference has," said Elaine Brown, Executive Director of Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS), who helps plan this conference. "Anyone who has been to this conference can tell you that."

Wayne Keith, the Alabama farmer and innovator, was the keynote speaker and, in a presentation full of practical knowledge and good ol' Southern humor, shared his farm, home and sawmill with participants through photos and stories. Wayne's wood-burning pickup trucks not only run on scraps from his sawmill but perform astounding tasks on his farm and in his trips across



The conference's 280 participants gathered in Lakeview High School's cafeteria for lunch and networking on January 17, 2009.

the country. Wayne will held an afternoon breakout session on the technical aspects of exactly how he got his truck to run on biofuels and other ways he's made his home and farm sustainable and energy-efficient.

Educational sessions covered everything the small farmer needs to succeed, and included: Crop Insurance Products; Beekeeping; Farm Energy Savings Checklist; How to Sell at a Farmers Market; Learning to be Certified Organic; Agriculture Loans; Selling to a Grocery Store; Farm to School; What is my Woodlot Worth?; and Preparing to Sell: Business Aspects and Legal Requirements. Also, there were three Vegetable Production Basics sessions on Crop Selection, Scheduling and Planning, and Soil and Plant Health, as well as four Farm Bill sessions on Marketing and Specialty Crops and what opportunities the USDA Farm Service Agency, Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service can offer small farmers.

Several of the educational sessions, as well as the keynote

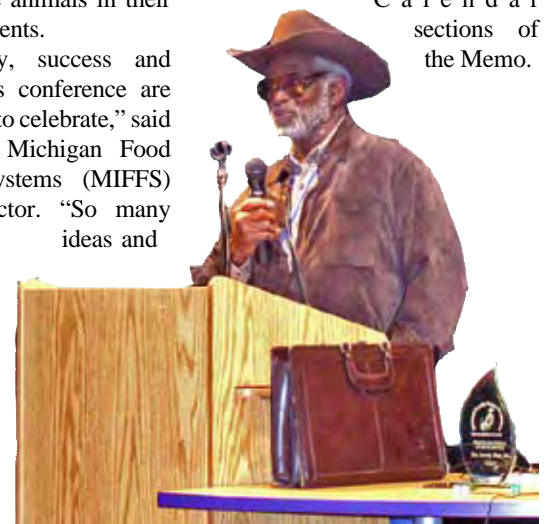
address, also featured Spanish translations using listening equipment for the growing group of Hispanic farmers who attend the conference.

And because this was the Michigan Family Farms Conference, the conference also featured youth sessions with fun, educational and hands-on activities in the morning, as well as an afternoon trip to Binder Park Zoo to meet the animals in their winter environments.

"The history, success and diversity of this conference are truly something to celebrate," said Elaine Brown, Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS) Executive Director. "So many communities, ideas and experiences all coming together to learn and network like this is a testament to the good work all of the partners are doing to make this possible."

Partners and sponsors included MIFFS, the Farm Research Cooperative, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Rural Development (RD), Potawatomi Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D), Michigan State University Extension, the Calhoun Conservation District, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) national office and the Michigan SARE Professional Development Program, the C.S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, GreenStone Farm Services, Cornerstone Ag Enterprises, LLC, Morgan Composting, Organic Valley Family of Farms, and the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA).

For more information about the conference, contact the MIFFS Office at (517) 432-0712 or miffs@msu.edu. Don't miss out on other great workshops and meetings coming up! Make sure to check out the Events and Opportunities and Calendar sections of the Memo.



Dr. LeRoy Ray received the 2008 Michigan Family Farmer award for his work with family farmers.

Growing Marketing Opportunities

Farm Aid and MIFMA Grow Good Food

By: Dru Montri
MIFMA Manager

The Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) was recently awarded \$5,000 to continue its work on farmers market viability in Michigan by Farm Aid's "Growing the Good Food Movement" program.

"Farmers markets let consumers interact with those growing their food and help farmers generate significant income and expand the demand for local farm products" said Dru Montri, MIFMA Manager. "This grant allows us to help them grow, thrive and meet those consumer demands for fresh, local food."

According to a 2007 report by Packaged Facts, nationally, the demand for locally grown food has gone from \$4 billion in 2002 to \$5 billion in 2007 and could reach \$7 billion by 2011. But in order to meet that escalating demand, both farmers markets and their growers need assistance.

Through this grant, MIFMA will build

upon the work and programs accomplished since MIFMA's inception in 2006 and will focus on outreach and technical assistance for the 3,000 farmers selling at farmers markets.

Marketing, networking, risk management and education are key components to helping Michigan's nearly 200 farmers markets succeed in meeting the growing demand for local food.

Specific goals of this project include promoting the MIFMA-secured group rates for liability insurance for farmers markets and for farmer/vendors at those markets and putting on educational workshops for market managers on marketing and management skills. The project also aims to enhance MIFMA's online presence and the Michigan Farmers Market Listserv and to increase networking opportunities for market managers, farmer/vendors and local food enthusiasts.

"We are grateful for your efforts in serving farmers and farming communities," wrote Willie Nelson in the grant acceptance letter

that Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS), the host organization for MIFMA operations, received. "It is very inspiring and energizing to see how much good work is going on to support family farmers and good food across the country."

Farm Aid, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to keep family farmers on their land, has been serving and supporting farm families and rural communities in the United States for 23 years. Farm Aid has raised more than \$33 million to promote a strong and resilient family farm system of agriculture through concerts by artists like Nelson, Neil Young and John Mellencamp devoted to raising awareness and funds for family farms.

For more information about Michigan farmers markets or MIFMA projects and successes, visit www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu or contact Dru Montri at (517) 432-3381 or dnmontri@msu.edu.

Supporting Ag Stewardship

Greetings from Ten Hens Farm!

By: Adam Montri
Hoophouse Project Manager

Ten Hens Farm is located in Bath, MI and is owned and operated by MIFMA and MIFFS/MSU employees Dru and Adam Montri and their daughter, Lydia. It is a year-round farm on two acres, with production on about half an acre, which includes a 34' x 96' unheated hoophouse.

Currently at Ten Hens, we're harvesting out of the hoophouse for weekly sales. On January 21 and 22, sales included green onions, carrots, salad mix (this week's combination was red and green lettuce, baby spinach, and mizuna), salad turnips and Red Russian kale. We also have regular spinach, head lettuce, radishes, arugula, Swiss chard, red mustard and Chinese cabbage

in the hoophouse that are ready for harvest, too. Our total production area is about 2,000 sq. feet, with twenty 100 sq. feet beds.

We'll be to cleaning out and prep four or five beds in the next two weeks and start to replant Spring crops, like carrots, green onions, baby leaf salad mix, beets and salad turnips this month. We are also thinking ahead to tomatoes, peppers and other warm season crops that will be transplanted into the hoophouse on April 15 with hopes of harvesting fresh, Michigan-grown tomatoes by the end of June at the latest!

Having a family farm is so important to us. It provides a source of fresh, healthy food for the community we live in while also preserving farmland and open space in Bath. We are also

hoping to show that farming can be a viable career option for new and beginning farmers or those whose farms may not currently be economically successful.

It is also important to us because of the link it creates between the work we are involved in through MIFMA, MIFFS and MSU and our home life. We have seen the change in the farmers and marketers we work with over the past few months when we can say "at our farm" or "where we farm" when we are talking about their farming operations. It is a great link to what we do, both at work and at home, and it makes us proud to see our friends, community members and customers walking up to the porch each week to purchase things that we have grown.



Adam, Dru and Lydia Montri in their unheated hoophouse at Ten Hens Farms.

Join MIFFS to read the whole article and get this issue of the Memo by request.

Thanks, MIFFS Donors, Sponsors & Members

MIFFS Funders and Partners for 2009:

USDA Risk Management Agency	USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program	(MSU) Extension	Resource Studies
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA)	MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	FarmAid
USDA Farm Service Agency	Michigan State University	MSU Dept of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and	W.K. Kellogg Foundation
			West Michigan Strategic Alliance

MIFFS Activities Sponsors since February 2008:

Meijer	Orchard Markets	Cornerstone Ag, LLC	Frank Fear
GreenStone Farm Credit Services	Michigan State Horticultural Society	Eastern Market Corporation	Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (SARE)
Wallace Center at Winrock International	Michigan Vegetable Council	Michigan State University Student Organic Farm	Michigan SARE Professional Development Program
C.S. Mott Chair of Sustainable Agriculture at MSU	Michigan Farm Bureau	Black Star Farms	Morgan Composting, Inc.
Whole Foods Market	Nowlin Chair for Consumer Responsive Agriculture - MSU	Michigan Brewing Company	Organic Valley Family of Farms
Mike Pirrone Produce	Morse Marketing Connections, LLC	Morton's Fine Catering	Farm Research Cooperative
Superior Sales	Originz, LLC	Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee	Michigan Family Farms Conference Planning Committee Members
Spartan Stores	MDA - Select Michigan Program	Doug Buhler, Michigan Ag Experiment Station	
Heeren Brothers Produce	Potawatomi RC&D	Tom Coon, MSU Extension	
		Chris Dorman	

MIFFS Donors since February 2008:

Jon & Elaine Bartholic, Laingsburg	Keith & Laska Creagh, Williamston	Lansing	Celeste Reed, Williamston
Chad & Emily Beutel, Kalamazoo	Michael DiRamio, Ann Arbor	Jim Krenek, Grand Ledge	Dr. LeRoy Ray, Bloomingdale
Morse & Arma Brown, Livonia	Larry Dyer, Brimley	Ivan Morely, Standish	Scott Reynolds, Vermontville
Victoria Campbell-Arvai, Lansing	Jason Fligger, Detroit	Jones Moynihan, Saint Paul, MN	Ron Steiner, Hart
Scott & Jill Corrin, Grand Ledge	June Grabemeyer, Lansing	Terri Novak, Flushing	Howard Straub, St. Johns
	Nancy Guthrie, Sunshine Prairie Farms, Delton	Lori & Floyd Phalen, Hastings	Michael & Julia Studier, Sodus
	Thomas Kalchik, East	Bob & Susan Pigg, Okemos	Wendy Wieland, Boyne City

MIFFS Members who have joined or renewed since November 2008:

Ed Baker, DeWitt	Leroy	Alan & Carol Hart, South Boardman	Terri Novak, Flushing
Barry County Conservation District, Hastings	Kenneth Dahlberg, Kalamazoo	Mark & Jane Herbert, Delton	Bob & Susan Pigg, Okemos
Jim Bingen, East Lansing	Michael DiRamio, Ann Arbor	Innovative Farmers of SC Michigan, Marshall	Jim Sluyter, Bear Lake
George Bird, Holt	Larry Dyer, Brimley	International Agribusiness Group, Farmington Hills	Susan Smalley, Horton
Dale Brecht, Mt. Pleasant	Ken & Jan Engle, Williamston	Dan Iott, Nottawa Fruit Farm, Sturgis	Michael & Julia Studier, Sodus
Doug Buhler, East Lansing	Jennifer Fike, Food System Economic Partnership (FSEP), Ann Arbor	Tom Kalchik, Grand Ledge	Diane Thompson, Lansing
Archer Christian, Ann Arbor	John Fisk, Okemos	Melville Kennedy, Davison	Kable Thurlow, Gladwin
Tom Coon, MSU Extension, East Lansing	Mark Gillen, Sterling	Adam & Dru Montri, Ten Hens Farm, Bath	Janet Walker, Vandalia
Sarah Crane, Chelsea	GreenStone Farm Credit	Rebekka Mustaffa, Allenton	Scott Wall, South Haven
Keith & Laska Creagh, Williamston	Nancy Guthrie, Sunshine Prairie Farms, Delton		Cornelius Williams, Vandalia
James Czarkowski, East			Catherine Williamson, Lansing



Michigan Food & Farming Systems-MIFFS

Bringing Farmers & Communities Together

416 Agriculture Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
www.miffs.org

Calendar of Events

Good Agricultural Practices & Good Handling Practices Workshops:

Contact MIFFS for more information or to RSVP at (517) 432-0712 or miffs@msu.edu. You MUST register for these workshops to attend; please RSVP at least 3 days prior to the date of the workshop you wish to attend. See the flyer at www.miffs.org.

- February 18, 2009; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Meijer Distribution Center
8857 Swan Creek Rd, Newport, MI 48166
- February 19, 2009; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lapeer County Extension Office
287 W Nepessing St, Suite #1, Lapeer, MI 48446
- February 25, 2009; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Trevor Nichols Research Complex
6237 124th Avenue, Fennville, MI 49408
- February 26, 2009; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Spartan Stores Distribution Center
850 76th Street, SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49518

February 26 - March 19, 2009:

Accepting SNAP Benefits at Michigan Farmers Markets Workshops, held in Detroit, Gaylord, East Lansing and Grand Rapids. Sponsored by the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA). Read more and get dates and locations on page 7.

March 6-7, 2009:

2009 MOFFA Conference, "Local Organic Food: Sustainable Prosperity for Michigan". Read more on page 12 or visit www.moffa.org.

March 6-14, 2009:

Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at Michigan State University. Visit www.canr.msu.edu/anweek for more information.

March 9, 2009:

Using the Internet to Increase Awareness and Interest in Your Farm or Farmers Market Workshop, 1-4 p. Read more on page 12 or visit www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu to see the flyer or register.

March 9, 2009:

MIFMA Annual Meeting and Celebration Dinner, 6-9 p, MSU Kellogg Center, Riverside Room, East Lansing, MI. Read more on page 12 or visit www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu to see the flyer or register.

March 10, 2009:

Farmers Market Manager "Boot Camp" II, 9a-4p, MSU Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI. Read more on page 12 or visit www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu to see the flyer or register.

March 10, 2009:

MIFFS Annual Meeting, MSU Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI. Save the date! Read more on page 1.

March 11-12, 2009:

CHOICES conference - "The Fight over Food: a Dinner Table Divided", Kellogg Center and University Club, East Lansing, MI.

June 18, 2009:

Food System Economic Partnership (FSEP) Conference, Lenawee County Vocational Technical Center, Adrian, MI. Contact Jennifer Fike at 734-222-6859 or visit <http://fsepmichigan.org> to learn more or register.

June 21-23, 2009:

American Forage and Grasslands Council Annual Meeting, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI. Visit www.afgc.org to learn more.

July 21-23, 2009:

Ag Expo at Michigan State University. Visit www.agexpo.msu.edu to learn more.

Visit www.miffs.org for a continuously updated list of events or submit ideas to miffs@msu.edu.