

Sustain our Future - Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities

Saturday
January 17, 2015
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

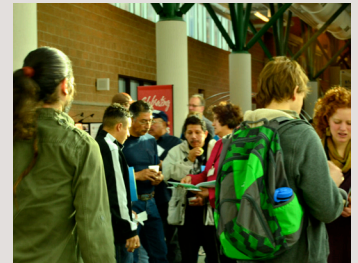
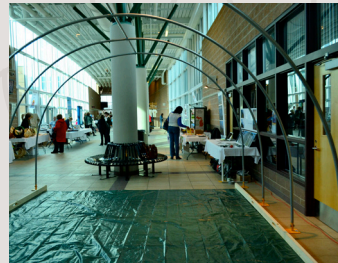
2015 Michigan Family Farms Conference

Marshall High School
701 N Marshall Ave
Marshall, MI 49068

**New
Location!**

The Michigan Family Farms Conference is a forum for beginning, small-scale and culturally diverse farmers to network, learn and build sustainable family farms.

You are invited to the 12th annual Michigan Family Farms Conference! As we're looking toward sustaining our future of thriving local food systems, two themes arise over and over again – healthy soils and healthy communities. This year has eight conference tracks – including a youth track!



For more information, contact one of our outreach specialists:

Morse Brown, 734-718-2116

Barbara Norman, 269-208-4588

Filiberto Villa Gomez, 269-830-2309

Save Me a Seat!

Name(s) _____

Farm/Business _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

**Register
before Dec
1 for a \$5
early-bird
discount!**

Register and pay online at
www.miffs.org/events/mffc

_____ x Adult: \$45

_____ x Student/Youth: \$35

_____ x MIFFS member: \$40

_____ I'd like to donate to
support the conference!
(optional)

Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to MIFFS and note MFFC
in the memo area.

A limited amount of scholarship funds are available for reduced price tickets. Contact MIFFS at 517.432.0712 for more information.

Sessions

See a full list of descriptions and speakers at www.mifffs.org/events/mffc

Is there GAP in your Paperwork?	Everything Comes from the Soil	Bees and Bugs	Your First 10 Years	Managing Your Farm	The Dollars Do It	Your Customer Connections
<u>Group GAP</u> Feel like a GAP audit is just too big for your small farm? Hear from farms in the U.P. who went through a pilot to have USDA GAP-certify their farms as a group.	<u>Cover Crops – The Key to Healthy Soil and Reduced Inputs</u> Cover crops can do amazing things for your farm and your soil, from improving soil fertility and organic matter to reducing weed and insect pressure (and a whole lot more!)	<u>Birds and Bees, Flowers and Trees</u> Learn bee keeping basics, key concepts and best management practices, plus USDA programs for pollinators and bees, and more!	<u>Veteran Farmers – Now is Your Time</u> Many vets are coming home to find great opportunities as farmers. Learn about available programs to help get started.	<u>Women Farming Solo</u> Hear from women farmers about unique problems and challenges they face, as well as how they've overcome them.	<u>What's New In the 2014 Farm Bill?</u> We finally have a new Farm Bill! Learn about changes to USDA programs and how your farm can benefit from these programs.	<u>Selling at Farmers Markets</u> Learn tips from farmers market managers on how to get into a market and how to display and sell your products successfully.
			<u>Beginning Farmer Opportunities</u> Find out what programs and resources are out there to help new farmers get started and find success.	<u>Certifications, Certifications, CERTIF... Which One for Me?</u> Organic, GAP, MAEAP, IPM... so many programs! Find out what fits your farm.	<u>Finding Grant Sources and Writing Grants</u> It's a competitive market out there for grants - learn how to find the best grant for you and write a great proposal.	<u>Hoophouses for Health</u> This program can help fund a hoophouse and increase healthy food access for low-income families, all at the same time.
<u>Record-keeping in the Real World</u> Find a recordkeeping method that works for you and your farm, from binders to smartphones.	<u>Healthy Soils 101: A Productivity Primer</u> See live demos of the benefits of healthy soils and learn how to improve your soils.	<u>Pest Management, Good Bugs Eating Bad</u> Understand the pest cycle and IPM techniques, cost-share opportunities, pesticide safety and proper use.	<u>Keeping Your Hoophouse Busy</u> Effectively manage your hoophouse with proper planting, scheduling, irrigation and more.	<u>Finding the Right Labor for Your Operation</u> Learn the basic laws, costs, and management involved in choosing migrant, internships, or seasonal labor.	<u>Managing Your Resources Before you Buy That Farm</u> Get all your financial and resource ducks in a row before you buy a farm.	<u>Developing Loyal Customers</u> CSAs and food distribution trucks are great ways to build a happy, healthy customer base.

An all-day Youth Track is also available for participants under the age of 18 and features morning educational sessions and an afternoon field trip.

2015 Michigan Family Farms Conference
 480 Wilson Road, Room 172 Natural Resources
 East Lansing, MI 48824
 Ph: 517.432.0712 • Fx: 517.353.7961
www.mifffs.org/events/mffc

