

# Adventures in Agriculture: Embracing the Many Cultures of Innovative Farming



**Saturday**  
**January 16, 2016**  
**8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Marshall High School**  
**701 N Marshall Ave**  
**Marshall, MI 49068**

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 13th Annual Michigan Family Farms Conference!**  
**We are continuing to move toward a thriving local food system and embracing the adventures that come along with it! Learn, Share and Experience this years seven conference tracks - including a youth track!**



For more information please contact a Conference Specialist:

Deb Hamilton: 810-244-8547 (Flint Area), Morse Brown: 734-718-2116 (metro Detroit), Barbara Norman: 269-208-4588 (SW MI)  
Sheila Patrick: 517-432-0712 (MIFFS office/Lansing Area) Filiberto Villa Gomez: 269-830-2309 (Spanish Speaking)

## Save me a seat!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Farm/Business

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                      State                      Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email



**Register and Pay online at:**  
[www.miffs.org/events/mffc](http://www.miffs.org/events/mffc)

\_\_\_\_\_ x Adult: \$45

\_\_\_\_\_ x Student/Youth: \$38

\_\_\_\_\_ x MIFFS member: \$40

\_\_\_\_\_ x Donation to support Conference

**Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks payable to MIFFS

**\*Contact a Conference Specialist for information about scholarship ticket opportunities**

# Sessions

Conference updates available at [www.miffs.org/events/mffc](http://www.miffs.org/events/mffc)

<u>Track 1</u>	<u>Track 2</u>	<u>Track 3</u>	<u>Track 4</u>	<u>Track 5</u>	<u>Track 6</u>	<u>Track 7</u>
<b>Last Year's Favorites!</b>	<b>Earth To Wallet</b>	<b>Courting Buyer Relationships</b>	<b>You Are Raising What???</b>	<b>Urban Farming</b>	<b>Through the Eyes of Beginning Farmers</b>	<b>All Day Youth Track</b>
<b>Birds and Bees, Flowers and Trees</b> <i>Double session:</i> Bee keeping basics and best practices, plus USDA programs for pollinators, bees and more.	<b>How to Build Healthy Soil</b> Building and maintaining healthy soil is not as difficult and daunting as you might think.	<b>Creating Partnerships w/ Chefs</b> John Fear, Head Chef at Bronson Hospital and a SW Michigan Farmer will share their process for working together	<b>Tasty Critters!</b> Insects are a sustainable alternative to eating meat. Hear about this new emerging international market that is beginning to grow nationally.	<b>Leasing Land</b> Learn how land banks are working with urban farmers to make land available for growing within cities	<b>Incubator Farms: How to Get into Farming</b> Hear firsthand from members of incubator farms, how they as a community share information, space, equipment, and collective costs.	<b>The Science of Farming: Fun &amp; Always Hands-On</b> <b>AM Session:</b> Highlighting careers paths in Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, (FANR) through hands-on activities.
<b>Continuing of Double Session on Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees</b> <i>See above description</i>	<b>Introduction to Permaculture!</b> Learn about temperate climate farm-scale Permaculture!	<b>Farmer To Distributor</b> Learn the basics about how to work directly with a food distributor.	<b>Growing Uncommon Crops</b> Hear from farmers who are successfully producing unique and targeted crops.	<b>Advance Hoop House Workshop</b> Come learn how to maximize your production capacity in a hoop house	<b>Incubator Farms: Reaching out to New Growers</b> Explore the opportunities and challenges of incubator farms that partner with specific groups of new farmers.	<b>Field Trip: Crandall Dairy Farm</b> <b>PM Session:</b> Participants will be visiting Crandall Dairy Farm to see baby calves, young heifers, and watch cows being milked and much more
<b>Veteran Farmers Now is Your Time</b> Many Vets are coming home to find great opportunities as farmers. Learn about programs and how to get started!	<b>Making Composting &amp; Vermiculture Work for You</b> Learn how to use worms to produce a nutrient rich organic fertilizer & soil enhancer	<b>Picklin' those Products</b> Hear the story of how a farmer created a business with a brinery by growing specific crops	<b>Getting Your Chicken Across the Road</b> Eggs and poultry meat are in demand. Hear how you can create a poultry business on your farm.	<b>Does Your Soil Pass the Test?</b> Learn about the importance of soil testing and how to interpret your test results.	<b>Getting a Hoop House into Production</b> Effectively manage your hoop house w/ proper scheduling, planting, irrigation & more...	<b>Youth Track</b> Intended for those attendees under the age of 18. A permission slip signed by a Parent or Guardian is required

2016 MI Family Farms Conference  
 480 Wilson Rd,  
 Room 172, Natural Resources  
 East Lansing, MI 48824  
 Ph: 517.432.0712 FX: 517.353.7961  
[www.miffs.org/events/mffc](http://www.miffs.org/events/mffc)

