



MIFFS Michigan Food & Farming Systems

Supporting the Many Faces of Farming

MAY 2025

WELCOME TO OUR Monthly Newsletter



Greetings Subscriber!

Spring flowers are blossoming and we've already had a day in the mid 70s, summer is officially on its way!

As temperatures rise, so do the risk of heat related illness and injury. Farmers, gardeners and anyone who works outside regularly should have a safety plan in place for high temperature work days in order to avoid risk. Here's a helpful [article](#) about working in the heat safely.

The avian flu and other viruses continue to circulate among the population and we want to greatly stress the importance of **ALL** farms putting biosecurity measures into place regardless of whether or not you farm livestock.

Please continue to follow us on social media for biosecurity information and avian flu updates.

For access to our database of other resources please visit our [website](#) and follow our social media pages on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Stay safe!

In Solidarity,
the MIFFS Team

Highlight This Month!

BEE URBAN GROWERS (BUG) PROJECT

COMMUNITY SCIENCE TRAINING: COLLECTING URBAN BEE DATA

THURSDAY MAY 8 FROM 6 - 7:30 PM

Join the BUG Project for a FREE online event to learn about native bees in urban spaces and how to collect community science data that supports them! RSVP! Scan the QR code or register [here](#).

**Collecting Urban Bee Data:
Community Science Training**
Thursday, May 8 | 6:00-7:30 PM
Online Over Zoom

Join us for a **FREE** online event to learn about native bees in urban spaces and how to collect community science data that supports them!

RSVP! Scan the QR code or follow this link:
https://events.ans.msu.edu/UBee_Com_Sci/

During the event, learn how to get involved in a new iNaturalist Project "Urban Bees of the Great Lakes Region"

View the project at
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/urban-bees-of-the-great-lakes-region>

Help scientists learn about urban bees by sharing observations from your city!



Educational Opportunities

WEBINARS, TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

EDUCATION



Funding Opportunities

GRANTS, LOANS &
RESOURCES

FUNDING



Employment Opportunities

JOBS, INTERNSHIPS &
FELLOWSHIPS

EMPLOYMENT



Frequently Asked Questions About the Federal Funding Freeze

For the last couple of months, Farm Commons has been focused on the new Executive branch's actions regarding federal funding and how they affect agricultural communities. Farmers and farm-supporting organizations around the country have had their funding frozen or terminated. These financial resources helped to power a wide range of activities, from improved product aggregation infrastructure to food bank purchases from local farmers and stronger marketing plans for farmers. In this article, we review some of the most frequently asked questions we're getting about what folks can expect and how they can respond.

Frequently Asked Questions

No one has told me to stop work; my requests for reimbursement are being processed. But, I'm worried. What can I do?

In this case, no news can be good news! If you haven't been told that you should stop work, then don't stop work. Continue to carry out your project. Make sure you read and fulfill the terms of your agreement around maintaining documentation, filing reimbursement requests, and more.

I'm still worried. Will my project be terminated? Will the government refuse to pay invoices or reimbursements into the future?

Understandably, many folks are still very worried. If the government has shown itself capable of going back on agreements put into writing, that's cause for concern. We don't know what will happen in the future. We do know that farms and nonprofits should continue to seek reimbursement for costs incurred on a timely basis- if you've been submitting invoices quarterly, start submitting them monthly. Keep the lines of communication open, and explore backup plans if your reimbursements are delayed.

Continue reading and access more federal funding freeze resources from Farm Commons [here](#).

Support Our Mission

Connecting beginning and historically underserved farmers to each other and resource opportunities; ensuring social justice, environmental stewardship, and profitability.

[**DONATE**](#)

Follow us on social media!



WWW.MIFFS.ORG
2438 WOODLAKE CIRCLE, STE 240
OKEMOS, MI 48864

