



**MIFFS**

# Michigan Food & Farming Systems

Supporting the Many Faces of Farming

**OCTOBER 2025**

## WELCOME TO OUR Monthly Newsletter



### Greetings Subscriber!

October is here and the 2025 growing season is winding to a close even though the weather in the Lansing area certainly still feels like summer. We are looking forward to cooler temperatures and the slowing down that comes with autumn and winter.

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) wants to remind folks of the key biosecurity measures you can take if you raise poultry, whether you've got a backyard flock or a commercial operation, to protect your livestock from the avian flu during peak migration times. View their easy to read infographic [here](#).

For the most up to date resources please follow our social media pages on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). You can access our database of other resources by visiting our website at [www.miffs.org/resources](http://www.miffs.org/resources).

In Solidarity,  
the MIFFS Team

### *Highlight This Month!*

#### CURIOUS ABOUT TRANSITIONING TO ORGANIC?

The Michigan Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) is offering free organic farm field days and webinars coming up in October. This is a great opportunity for both farmers and farm educators to learn more about organic production practices and certification.

**Register [here](#).**

**ORGANIC FARMING  
FIELD DAYS & WEBINARS**  
Hosted by the Michigan Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP)

**OCTOBER 2025**

FIELD DAYS	WEBINARS
<p><b>OCT 09</b> Organic Orchard Tour with Third Leaf Farm GREENVILLE, MI   4 - 6PM</p> <p><b>OCT 11</b> Field Day with Fisheye Farm DETROIT, MI   1 - 3PM</p>	<p><b>OCT 21</b> Farm Certification Options ONLINE   12 - 1PM</p> <p><b>OCT 23</b> Nutrient Management Part 1 ONLINE   12 - 1PM</p>
	<p><b>OCT 28</b> Organic Market Premiums ONLINE   12 - 1PM</p> <p><b>OCT 30</b> Nutrient Management Part 2 ONLINE   12 - 1PM</p>

 Learn More





# Educational Opportunities

WEBINARS, TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

EDUCATION



## Funding Opportunities

GRANTS, LOANS &  
RESOURCES

FUNDING



## Employment Opportunities

JOBS, INTERNSHIPS &  
FELLOWSHIPS

EMPLOYMENT





## Winter High Tunnel Salad Mix Varieties Tested

Franklinton Farms tested different types of salad and lettuce greens to see which grew best in their high tunnel in Ohio. The goal was to find top performers for small-scale growers.

Growing lettuce in high tunnels during the winter can be tricky, but it also opens the door to fresh, local greens when demand is high. Franklinton Farms, a nonprofit in Columbus, Ohio, received an \$8,781 NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher grant to test ways to make the most of winter high tunnel space. Their recent variety trial helped identify lettuce varieties that thrive in winter conditions, boosting efficiency and profitability for winter salad mix production.

“Midwestern winter growers, especially as they’re starting out, may struggle to find information that will allow them to optimize their winter salad mix production,” said Michelle Nowak, former farm manager with Franklinton Farms. “Research has confirmed that babyleaf brassicas and lettuce are among the top choices for generating income with winter growing, but with so many choices on the market, it’s hard to know which varieties generate the best returns.”

Read the full SARE article [here](#).

### Support Our Mission

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

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*Follow us on social media!*



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