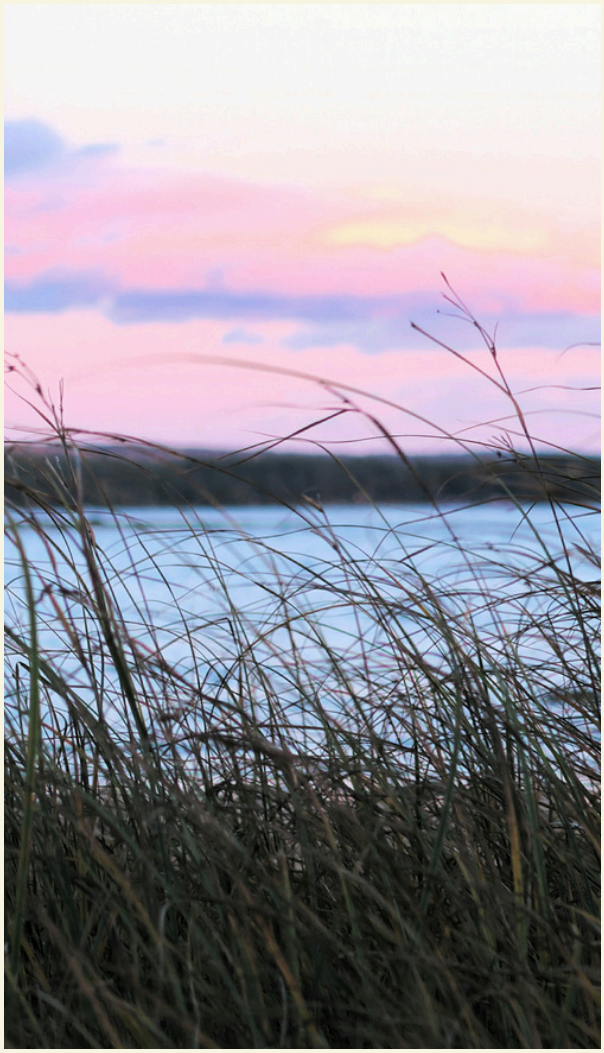
MIFFS
Michigan Food & Farming Systems
Supporting the Many Faces of Farming

**JUNE 2026**

WELCOME TO OUR

# Monthly Newsletter



## Greetings Subscriber!

Time this year seems to be flying by at quite a speed. We are already heading into summer and the full swing of the 2026 season.

As the weather shifts into the higher temperatures and heat of summer, please review these important tips on creating a heat/high temperature safety plan. 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 of injury and/or illness.

Follow us on social media where we share more opportunities for funding, education, employment and networking in our regular posts and stories. Come visit us on Facebook and Instagram!

You can also access our database of resources by visiting our website at www.miffs.org/resources.

In Solidarity,
the MIFFS Team

## *Highlight This Month!*

**NEW RECORDKEEPING TOOLKIT: GET RISK-READY**

The MIFFS team is excited to announce our new no nonsense, straight-to-the-point recordkeeping toolkit!

Whether you need records in order for general emergency preparedness, you want to make sure you're eligible for disaster assistance and other programs, or you just want to generally work on your farm record keeping, this toolkit is for you and will put you well on your way to being risk ready.

You can access the toolkit **here.**


# Educational Opportunities

**WEBINARS, TRAININGS & CONFERENCES**

**EDUCATION**

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# Funding Opportunities

**GRANTS, LOANS & RESOURCES**

**FUNDING**


# Employment Opportunities

**JOBS, INTERNSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS**

**EMPLOYMENT**

# Insect Farming for Chicken Feed: Stewardship, Resilience, and Practical Protein

by Mike Lewis, NCAT Agriculture Specialist
Barred Plymouth Rock chicken foraging. Photo: Tracy Mumma

You can learn a lot by watching chickens on a cold morning when the ground is frozen and the grass has stopped growing. They don't pace the edge of the run. They hunt—scratching, pecking, flipping leaves and mulch like they're turning pages in a book only they can read. If they find a grub, it's gone in a flash. If they uncover a cluster of larvae, the flock converges like a small storm.

That behavior isn't a hobby. It's biology. Chickens are omnivorous foragers, and insects have always been a meaningful part of their diet, especially when protein is tight and conditions are stressful. With rising feed costs, fragile supply chains, and growing climate uncertainty, insect production offers a practical way to turn on-farm byproducts into usable protein while feeding birds what they are built to eat.

From a nutritional standpoint, insects are a dense and useful package. On a dry matter basis, black soldier fly larvae typically contain 35% to 45% crude protein and 25% to 35% fat, with meaningful levels of lysine and methionine —two amino acids Their calcium content can range from 5% to 8%, depending on substrate and processing, which can be particularly useful for laying hens. Insects also provide digestible fats that support energy needs and feather quality, along with chitin, a structural fiber scientists are studying for potential gut health and immune benefits.

**Read the full blog post here**.