



MIFFS

Michigan Food &

Farming Systems

Supporting the Many Faces of Farming

DECEMBER 2025

WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Newsletter

Greetings Subscriber!

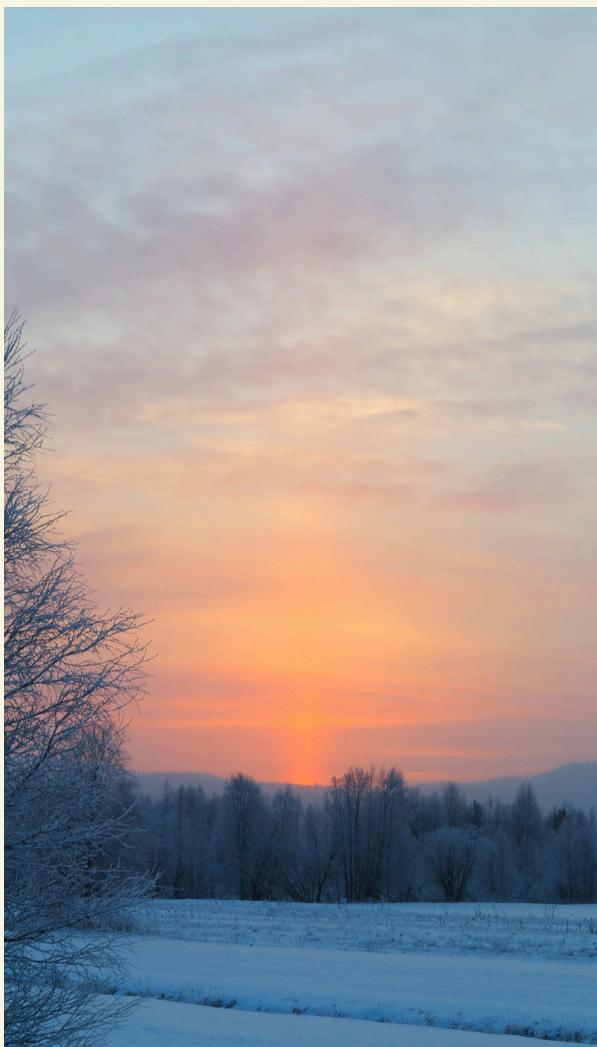
Winter weather and lots of snow has arrived to Michigan in the past week, we hope you are keeping warm and safe through the storms. We wish everyone a restful, peaceful and joyous holiday season with the acknowledgement that this is, and has been, a very stressful and trying time for so many of us.

We continue to work hard towards our mission and maintain hope and strength for a better future for farmers and all of our community members.

It is a good time of year to take advantage of webinar, conference and workshop opportunities to help you grow and strengthen your operations. Check out our educational opportunities link below for a curated list of events in the Michigan and Great Lakes region.

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.

In Solidarity,
the MIFFS Team



Highlight This Month!

MICHIGAN ORGANIC FOOD & FARM ALLIANCE (MOFFA) ORGANIC INTENSIVES 2026

MOFFA's Organic Intensives event is back this coming **January 10th, 2026** on the campus of Michigan State University!

This one-day conference will allow attendees to gain in-depth knowledge that can be immediately applied, empowering YOU to make a real difference when it comes to organic, ecological, and regenerative farming and gardening practices. [Register here.](#)

 **Organic Intensives 2026**
January 10, 2026, 8-5 PM EST, MSU Campus


Three Tracks Available
Medicinal Herbs
Cut Flowers
Home Food Gardening

Register Today!



Educational Opportunities

WEBINARS, TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

EDUCATION



Funding Opportunities

**GRANTS, LOANS &
RESOURCES**

FUNDING



Employment Opportunities

**JOBs, INTERNSHIPS &
FELLOWSHIPS**

EMPLOYMENT



Creating Fungal Compost

by

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

Former Chicago science teacher, Rick Bieterman now farms in the Colorado High Desert, growing hay. Watershed Ranch has an annual precipitation of 11 inches and sits at 8,000 feet in elevation – providing about 90-100 frost free days per season. Add in poor soil quality, and farming becomes a challenge. Rick got involved in Colorado's STAR program which focuses on soil health practices.

When prices of synthetic fertilizers soared during the COVID pandemic, his goal was to figure out how to move away from their use and improve soil quality. He found compost to purchase and later received a [Western SARE grant](#) to learn how to make his own.

Listen in to this conversation as Rick discusses the unique challenges of farming in a high alpine desert, the importance of community connections, and innovative practices he's trialing. He also reflects on the learning process, embracing failures, and the continuous quest for improvement in farming.

Also watch [Rick's YouTube videos on fungal compost](#)

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!



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