



MIFFS

Michigan Food &
Farming Systems

Supporting the Many Faces of Farming

AUGUST 2026

WELCOME TO OUR
Monthly Newsletter



Greetings Subscriber!

We are sending everyone our best wishes for safe and abundant harvests as we head into the homestretch of the 2026 growing season. We are living through unprecedented times and the work that you do for your communities is so important and valued.

MSU Extension Agrifood Safety department has shared key information and resources for producers to help **prevent Cyclospora contamination** in their crops. Farmers can take an active role in helping to prevent the spread of this parasite.

As wildfires continue to burn throughout the continent and bring heavy smoke and poor air quality with them, the MI Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) has published **guidance and protective actions** you can take [here](#).

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**.

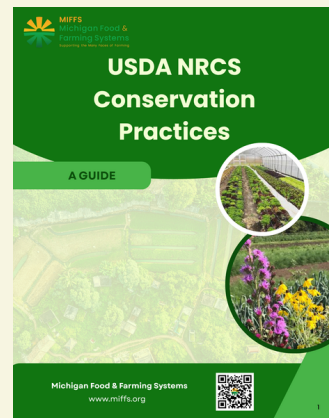
In Solidarity,
the MIFFS Team

Highlight This Month!

NEW CONSERVATION PRACTICE GUIDE

The MIFFS team is pleased to announce our new, in depth overview of conservation practices supported by the USDA NRCS.

For each conservation practice, it offers a summary of the practice and the natural resource concerns the practice addresses. Read and download the guide **here**.





Educational Opportunities

WEBINARS, TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

EDUCATION



Funding Opportunities

GRANTS, LOANS &
RESOURCES

FUNDING



Employment Opportunities

JOBS, INTERNSHIPS &
FELLOWSHIPS

EMPLOYMENT

Michigan On-Farm Produce Safety

Food Safety Considerations for Ground Cover

in and around high tunnels



mulch vs cover crops

Mulch and cover crops are both used to protect and improve soil health. Cover crops are living plants sown on bare soil where mulch is material placed on top of the soil. Both methods can work to maximize yield, suppress weeds, and enrich the soil. Consider the following food safety scenarios before choosing between the two methods.

mulch

If using mulch, consider the source and proximity to the crop. While it suppresses weeds & breaks down over time providing nutrients to the soil, if the product is contaminated it can spread to the crop, workers shoes, surrounding fields, etc.



cover crops

Using cover crops as a border around the high tunnel can help to collect rain water and prevent splash and pooling. Tall brush can also create habitat for a variety of pests like rodents, moving them closer to your crop, creating a potential hazard to the growing area.

water source is still important

Mulching and cover cropping have many benefits, but they do not fix poor water quality or worker hygiene habits. Always ensure water that is touching the edible portion of the crop is of adequate sanitary quality for its intended use, and that workers are following the farm's SOPs.



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!

