



WELCOME TO OUR
Monthly Newsletter



Greetings Subscriber!

March is here already, bringing with it the promise of warm weather and a strong sugar bush season.

We wish everyone happy planning and preparing for the upcoming growing season. The work you do to feed your community is more important than ever and we are continually grateful for your efforts and diligent labors.

MIFFS has worked diligently to compile the events and resources linked in this newsletter for you.

Follow us on social media where we share a variety of 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!

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2026 STAPLE CROPS PROGRAM

Join us! Applications are open for year 2 of our staple crops program!

If you're eager to learn, start growing, or improve your production of beans, grains, and other crops that are staples to you, consider joining us for educational webinars, community gatherings, a staple crops symposium, and more.

Reach out to us at info@miffs.org or (517) 712-5233 to share your interest, or complete the intake form [here](#).

**PREVIEW OF 2026
Staple Crops Programming**

-  **Monthly Webinar Series**
March - October 2026
(with a summer break July-August)
-  **Community Event**
April 2026
Buckwheat variety tasting, staple crop conversations, workshop on building your farm's resilience, and more!
-  **Symposium: Staple Crops Bus Tour**
August 2026
A multi-stop tour across Michigan staple crops operations



Educational Opportunities

WEBINARS, TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

EDUCATION



Funding Opportunities

GRANTS, LOANS & RESOURCES

FUNDING



Employment Opportunities

JOBS, INTERNSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

EMPLOYMENT



Hoop houses and fabric mulch help produce earlier lettuce harvests for market while reducing weed pressure and labor demands. Photo Gabriella Soto-Velez, NCAT

Season Extension Techniques for Market Gardeners

By Janet Bachmann, NCAT Agriculture Specialist,

Updated by Gabriella Soto-Velez and Chris Lent, NCAT Agriculture Specialists

This publication explores season extension techniques for market gardeners, focusing on practical strategies to expand crop production beyond the traditional growing season.

Topics include cultural practices like site selection, soil types, and tillage systems; crop protection methods such as shade structures, windbreaks, and frost protection irrigation; and season extension infrastructure including high tunnels, low tunnels, floating row covers, and cold frames.

It also covers cultivar selection, intercropping, mulching, and relay cropping systems to increase productivity and profitability. A detailed case study, economic considerations, and funding opportunities round out this guide to sustainable, climate-resilient production.

[Read the full publication 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!

