



MIFFS Michigan Food & Farming Systems

Supporting the Many Faces of Farming

FEBRUARY 2025

WELCOME TO OUR Monthly Newsletter



Greetings Subscriber!

We would like to provide an update to the cancellation notice for the 21st Annual Michigan Family Farms Conference (MFFC) posted Jan. 28, as well as an overall update for the organization as a whole.

Prior to the release of the OMB Memo late Jan. 27, the MIFFS team and the MFFC Coordinator had made the difficult decision to cancel the in person conference due to multiple other risk factors, and in anticipation of future funding freezes. However, the announcement could not be made until after the MFFC Planning Team convened on the morning of Jan. 28. The timing of the statement with the news was simply coincidental.

The ongoing programmatic work of MIFFS is entirely grant funded. The majority of our funding comes from USDA to address critical access barriers and emergent needs of small-scale family farms and agrarian communities.

MIFFS staffing, hours, and availability will be subject to change until further notice. Please understand that we may take longer to respond to emails, phone calls, and other queries.

If you would like to [make a donation](#) to MIFFS during this time we would greatly appreciate your support as we navigate a very difficult and challenging season that is having a great impact on our staff, our work, and the farmers that we serve.

In Solidarity,
The MIFFS Team

Highlight This Month!

MSU URBAN AGRICULTURE SUMMIT
Thursday February 27, 2025 8 am - 4 pm

Join local community leaders from across the state and Michigan State University staff for a community designed Urban Agriculture Summit. This event is **FREE** and includes a light breakfast and lunch. Registration is required. Please register [here](#).

The event will happen at MSU's James B. Henry Center 3535 Forest Rd.,
Lansing, MI





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EDUCATION



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GRANTS, LOANS &
RESOURCES

FUNDING



Employment Opportunities

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FELLOWSHIPS

EMPLOYMENT



MDARD Encourages Owners to Help Keep Their Animals Warm and Safe in Cold Temperatures

Feeling the chill? Chances are your animals are too

LANSING, MI—As cold temperatures settle in around the state, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is reminding owners of some of the best ways to keep their animals warm and safe.

“While each individual animal tolerates the cold differently, animals that are young or elderly, short-coated, and/or have underlying health conditions can be more susceptible to frigid temperatures,” said **State Veterinarian Nora Wineland, DVM, MS, DACVPM**. “It is important to work with your veterinarian and know your animal’s limits in cold weather to prevent hypothermia, frostbite, and other negative outcomes.”

Keep animals safe from the cold by following these five easy tips...

Read full article and tips [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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