



MIFFS Michigan Food & Farming Systems

Supporting the Many Faces of Farming

SEPTEMBER 2026

WELCOME TO OUR Monthly Newsletter

Greetings Subscriber!

We continue to send you our best wishes for safe and abundant harvests this fall!

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!

**FINDING COMMON GROUND: BUILDING TRUST WITH URBAN
FARMERS WORKSHOP FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS - DETROIT -
SEPT. 8, 2026 10 AM - 2 PM**

Join MSU – Detroit Partnership for Learning and Innovation (DPFLI) for an interactive, hands-on workshop for ag service providers featuring Common Ground, a cooperative game about building trust and coordination in farm systems under pressure.

Participants step into dual roles as Producers and support Agents to explore how timing, fit, and follow-through shape real outcomes for farms. Through facilitated game play and reflection, this workshop creates space to examine what it takes to align support, respond to stress, and move together toward sustainable market access. Learn more & register **[here](#)**.





Educational Opportunities

WEBINARS, TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

EDUCATION



Funding Opportunities

GRANTS, LOANS &
RESOURCES

FUNDING



Employment Opportunities

JOBS, INTERNSHIPS &
FELLOWSHIPS

EMPLOYMENT

10 Steps for Conducting Research on Your Farm or Ranch

New SARE Resource!

Download the PDF or order in print for FREE [here](#).

Ag Innovations Series

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Peer-reviewed research findings and practical strategies for advancing sustainable agriculture systems



Farmer Umi Martin is pruning mango trees in one of the two orchard systems he evaluated during a multi-year research project on his farm. His goal is to give small-scale farmers new opportunities by showing that high-density, low-cost mango production is possible in Hawaii. Photo by LD Productions (SARE grants FW17-034 and FW21-375)

10 Steps for Conducting Research on Your Farm or Ranch

Introduction

If you're a farmer or rancher, you deal with the realities and challenges of agriculture in your daily life. And you probably have ideas of how to do things more sustainably. But farms and ranches are very complex, and making a major change—whether it's in growing a crop, managing a pest or marketing a product—comes with risk because you don't know how it'll turn out. This is where research can be a valuable tool.

The purpose of research is to generate information to answer questions. In many ways, the very best people to conduct research are producers themselves. You understand what kinds of information you need to help you make sound decisions, streamline your work, and take excellent care of your land and water, your animals, your crops and your family, while also staying profitable. A research project on your farm could give you the answers you seek and help others as well. This workbook is designed to help your research project succeed!

Using This Workbook

This workbook will help you turn your ideas into a clearly defined research project that you can do on your farm. We'll walk you through each step, from the idea phase all the way through implementation and the final presentation of results. These steps, which we've structured as learning lessons, are:

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Available at:
www.sare.org/research-workbook or
order free hard copies at (301) 779-1007.
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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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