



MIFFS
**Michigan Food &
Farming Systems**
Supporting the Many Faces of Farming

FEBRUARY 2026

WELCOME TO OUR
Monthly Newsletter



Greetings Subscriber!

Michigan is experiencing a much colder winter than we have in the past few years. This type of cold weather can be challenging for so many of us.

Although it may not feel like it, spring will be here before we know it. We hope you can find small moments of joy as you read through seed catalogues, dig through your seed collections, and plan for the 2026 growing season.

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.

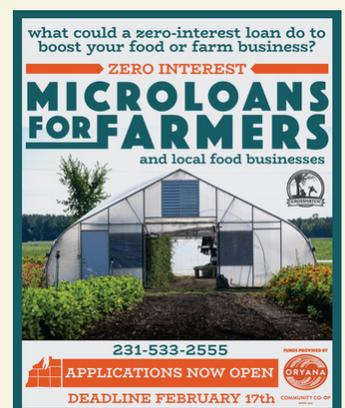
Warmly,
the MIFFS Team

Highlight This Month!

MICROLOANS FOR FARMERS IN NW LOWER PENINSULA COUNTIES

The 2026 Microloan application is open, with a deadline of February 17th. This partnership between Crosshatch Center for Art and Ecology and Oryana Community Co-op provides much-needed zero-interest loans to local food producers.

looking for new or established farms and food businesses that need access to \$500 to \$10,000 in capital to start or grow their operations. If you're interested in applying, learn more here: www.crosshatch.org/ecology-farming/microloans





Educational Opportunities

WEBINARS, TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

EDUCATION



Funding Opportunities

GRANTS, LOANS & RESOURCES

FUNDING



Employment Opportunities

JOBS, INTERNSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

EMPLOYMENT



Eagle Street Rooftop Farm in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, New York. Education Images/Citizens of the Planet/Universal Images Group via Getty Images

A Surprisingly Powerful Tool to Make Cities More Livable

Urban farms and gardens ease food insecurity, boost mental health, and create communities.

by Matt Simon, Mother Jones Magazine

If you've spent any time on a roof, you know that it's not especially pleasant up there—blazing in the summer, frigid and windy in the winter. Slap some solar panels up there, though, and the calculus changes: Shaded from gusts and excessive sunlight, crops can proliferate, a technique known as rooftop agrivoltaics.

And because that hardware provides shade, evaporation is reduced, resulting in big water savings. Plus, all that greenery insulates the top floor, reducing energy costs.

Long held in opposition to one another, urban areas are embracing elements of the rural world as they try to produce more of their own food, in community gardens on the ground and agrivoltaics up above. In an increasingly chaotic climate, urban agriculture could improve food security, generate clean electricity, reduce local temperatures, provide refuges for pollinators, and improve mental and physical health for urbanites, among other benefits. ***Read the full article [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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Follow us on social media!

