



RESOURCES FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AVAILABLE THROUGH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

COMPILED BY
MSU CENTER FOR REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Table of Contents

MSU Center for Regional Food Systems	2
Michigan Farm to Institution Network	2
Michigan Food Hub Network	2
Michigan Good Food Fund (MGFF)	2
Marketing Michigan Products: A Step-By-Step Guide	2
Michigan Organic Farming Exchange (OFE).....	3
MSU College of Law	3
Urban Food, Farm and Agricultural Law Practicum Resources	3
Urban Food, Farm and Agriculture Clinic	3
MSU Department of Horticulture	3
Hoophouses for Health	3
MSU Hoophouse Website	4
Online Course: High Tunnels and Hoophouses for Year-round Farming Success	4
MSU Extension	4
Beginning Farmer Webinar Series	4
Zoning and Policy Guidance and Expertise.....	4
MSU Land Policy Institute	5
“When Urban Agriculture Meets Michigan’s Right to Farm Act: The Pig’s in the Parlor”.....	5
MSU Product Center	5
Consultation Services.....	5
Making it in Michigan Conference and Tradeshow.....	5
Michigan Small and Emerging Cooperatives Conference	5
MSU Soil and Plant Nutrient Laboratory	6
Soil Testing for Fields and Crops	6

Please note:

This document lists Michigan State University resources for urban agriculture; it does not include MSU resources for agriculture at-large, some of which may be relevant to urban agriculture. To suggest additions, email:

CRFS@anr.msu.edu.

This document may be accessed online at: http://foodsystems.msu.edu/msu_urban_agriculture_resources

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Michigan Farm to Institution Network

<http://mifarmtoinstitution.org>

This network helps growers to learn about expanding market opportunities and connect with institutional buyers. It is co-coordinated by the Center for Regional Food Systems and the Ecology Center with support from MSU Extension.

Michigan Food Hub Network

http://foodsystems.msu.edu/activity/info/michigan_food_hub_learning_and_innovation_network

Food hubs are a potential selling opportunity for Michigan urban farmers. This network builds the capacity of Michigan food hubs to operate profitably and supply good food to underserved communities. The network maintains a listserv, offers educational webinars, and hosts a statewide meeting that moves across the state three times per year.

Michigan Good Food Fund (MGFF)

<http://www.MIGoodFoodFund.org> (may be accessed upon official program launch)

The MGFF is a public-private partnership loan and grant fund that will provide financing and business assistance to good food enterprises that increase access to healthy food, improve health of Michigan children and families, and spark economic development and job creation in underserved communities. Modeled after programs like Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative, MGFF will provide financing and business assistance to projects that grow, process, distribute, and sell healthy food that reaches low-income communities.

Marketing Michigan Products: A Step-By-Step Guide

<http://foodsystems.msu.edu/resources/marketing-mi-products>

This guide provides tools and resources to help Michigan farmers to sell food products to Michigan schools. Its focus is K-12 school settings, but tools and information are relevant and helpful for marketing to any type of institution, including early childhood programs, hospitals and colleges.



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Michigan Organic Farming Exchange (OFE)

<http://michiganorganic.msu.edu/>

The OFE website and listserv offer producers and farmers technical information and guidance to manage soil, grow organic crops, and identify profitable markets; provide information about ways to successfully transition conventional production to organic-certified or not; share research opportunities for producers; and aim to help producers improve marketing and business management skills essential to survival in the global economy.

MSU COLLEGE OF LAW

Urban Food, Farm and Agricultural Law Practicum Resources

<http://law.msu.edu/clinics/food/resources.html>

This resource is a collection of briefings on policies and legal considerations for a variety of interests and issues related to urban food production.

Urban Food, Farm and Agriculture Clinic

<http://law.msu.edu/clinics/food/about.html>

Through this legal clinic, MSU law students work closely with urban agriculture stakeholders (nonprofits or low-income persons) to describe, analyze, and resolve legal issues. The clinic is historically Detroit focused, but may be of service to producers in other areas. This is a complimentary service through the MSU College of Law.

MSU DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE

Hoophouses for Health

<http://mifma.org/hoophouses-for-health/>

Hoophouses for Health provides growers with capital to expand their season extension capacity in order to increase good food infrastructure, while also increasing good food access to vulnerable children and families through Head Start programs and farmers markets. Farmer applications to participate are accepted on a rolling basis. The Michigan Farmers Market Association and MSU Extension are also partners of Hoophouses for Health.



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MSU Hoophouse Website

<http://hoophouse.msu.edu>

This website is for farmers, farming non-profits, researchers, or others interested in season extension or year-round farming using hoophouses (aka: high tunnels, passive solar greenhouses, or unheated greenhouses). It also offers information on season extension techniques like row covers, quickhoops, low tunnels, and 3-season high tunnels.

Online Course: High Tunnels and Hoophouses for Year-round Farming Success

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=HoophousesOnline>

This entirely online course is offered in the fall and winter. Course instructors are [Adam Montri](#) & [John Biernbaum](#) of the MSU Department of Horticulture.

MSU EXTENSION

Beginning Farmer Webinar Series

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/beginning_farmer_webinar_series

These webinars help small farmers gain the knowledge needed to plan a start-up farming operation or add a new enterprise to an existing farm. Sessions range from fruit and vegetable crops to beekeeping and small-scale animal production.

Zoning and Policy Guidance and Expertise

Kurt Schindler, schindL9@anr.msu.edu

Brad Neumann, neuman36@msu.edu

MSU Extension zoning educators can provide guidance and expertise on urban agriculture zoning and community food systems issues. MSU Extension public policy educators provide education on the Right to Farm Act for urban producers.



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MSU LAND POLICY INSTITUTE

“When Urban Agriculture Meets Michigan’s Right to Farm Act: The Pig’s in the Parlor”

<http://www.msulawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/2011-2-Norris.pdf>

This Michigan state law review article includes: a brief history of urban agriculture, right to farm nuisance protection, vagaries of preemption under Right to Farm Act (RTFA), and risks of RTFA for urban agriculture.

MSU PRODUCT CENTER

Consultation Services

<http://productcenter.msu.edu/>

MSU Product Center provides a variety of customizable services to help entrepreneurs and businesses to launch new product and service ideas into food, agriculture, and bioenergy markets. Services include: concept development, business development, market research, market mapping, feasibility studies, and consultation for scaling up. Many services are free or of minimal cost; advanced services are fee-based.

Making it in Michigan Conference and Tradeshow

<http://productcenter.msu.edu/miim>

Conference attendees will leave the conference equipped with the practical knowledge and industry resources needed to move an idea from the concept stage to a finished and marketable product. Attendees will be able to connect with industry experts offering insights and tips on managing the common hurdles often encountered by food companies. The 2015 conference will be held on November 10 at the Lansing Center in Lansing, MI. Call (517) 432-4608 for additional information.

Michigan Small and Emerging Cooperatives Conference

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/michigan_small_and_emerging_cooperative_conference

This is an annual conference for directors and members of small and recently organized cooperatives or anyone thinking of starting a cooperative or other type of association. Attendees will receive information about the basics what cooperatives are and how to start and sustain a cooperative or association, various roles within the cooperative, financing, legal issues, and business planning as well as time for networking and input.



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MSU SOIL AND PLANT NUTRIENT LABORATORY

Soil Testing for Fields and Crops

<http://www.spnl.msu.edu/index.htm>

The SPNL offers a variety of analytical services on samples of soil, greenhouse growth media, composts, plant tissue, water and other materials related to the growing of plants (crops) received from commercial and part-time farmers, greenhouse operations, golf courses, homeowners, consultants, researchers, and others.