



MOFFA  
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## 2014 Annual Report

MOFFA is constantly evolving and forging ahead as we embark on our 23rd year. Although the calendar year defines our structure, the seasons dictate our lives! We continue to make optimum use of the Fall/Winter conference season to engage with our membership and the public at large, through sponsorship and a presence at many, many events, including the Michigan Family Farms Conference, the Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference, Everybody Eats, the Michigan Farmers Market Conference, MSU's Organic Reporting Session, Southwest Michigan Harvest Fest, Bioneers Detroit, and the Great Lakes Fruit and Vegetable Expo.



Our focus recently has been on establishing active and participatory committees to accomplish the real work—volunteer, policy, education, loan committees are active as are special event stand-alone councils.

The volunteer committee was brought to the fore this past year with special emphasis on recruiting MOFFA members to participate on special projects. We strongly encourage and seek those who can allot whatever time possible to promoting organic agriculture and community food systems to voice your willingness to assist!

This past year partnerships continued to blossom: as fiduciaries of grants, supporters of a wide-range of research projects, partners in loan programs, and most importantly as lead presenters at events throughout the Midwest educating and promoting the MOFFA mission.

The MOFFA website [www.moffa.net](http://www.moffa.net) continues to be our most effective tool for dissemination of information and updates. We constantly post items there of the most pertinent nature from employment to land access to upcoming happenings, etc. We

especially welcome submissions from the community at large, member and non-member alike ([moffaorganic@gmail.com](mailto:moffaorganic@gmail.com)).



The addition of new board members in 2014 and 2015 has energized our leadership. We welcome Julie Studier, who with her husband Michael has owned and operated an organic apple orchard in Southwest Michigan since 2006, and Dan Bewersdorff, a Michigan native who began his career in the family



meatpacking business, moving into environmental issues in the '90s and then into the organic sphere in 1999.

We continued to develop and improve our "Guide to Michigan's Organic and Ecologically Sustainable Growers and Farms" during 2014. If you are a grower and meet the criteria (organic certification or sign-on to the farmer's pledge) we highly encourage you to take a few minutes to submit farm/grower information for inclusion. This is a wonderful tool but there are many great producers of food, flora and fiber who are not listed!

The end of the year brought together our plans for the first-ever Organic Intensives event, which took place in March of 2015. The Organic Intensives will provide an opportunity for farmers and serious gardeners to immerse themselves in a full day of information about a particular aspect of our work. The topics chosen for the first event were Compost, Vermicompost, Extracts and Teas; Cut Flowers for Profit and Diversification; and Edible Landscaping and Permaculture Design. We anticipate that future editions of this event will take place in other locations and at other times of the year, and focus on different topics, but we are pretty sure that the concept is a fertile one to explore.

Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance is your organization. If you adhere and believe in the mission statement, small contributions can have significant impact on the lives of those near and dear as well as the community as a whole. Lend some of your passion for a life-affirming existence through/with MOFFA.

Look skyward and enjoy,

