

Chapters

Introduction
The Early Organic Movement in Michigan

PART I: OGM

Organic Growers of Michigan: 1973-2005
Chapters of OGM: Southwest, Third Coast,
Southeast, Thumb, Lifeline
The Organic Certification Program After
National Organic Standards

PART II: MOFFA

The Origins of Michigan Organic Food and
Farm Alliance
MOFFA in the '90s: Enlarging the Organic
Movement in Michigan
MOFFA in the 21st Century

PART III: Other Organic Groups and Activities

The Organic Movement at MSU
The Student Organic Farm at MSU
Organic Farmers of Michigan
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Community Supported Agriculture in 2002:
The State of the Art in Michigan
Organic Food Co-ops in Michigan: A Case
Study of Oryana Community Co-op
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Organic Soil Management

PART IV: Organic Farming, Now More Important Than Ever

Organics — The New Industry
The Future of Organic Farming in a Time of
Global Warming

www.michiganorganic.org/the-book

Authors

Chapters in the book were written by Dean Berden, John Biernbaum, Jim Bingen, George Bird, Luise Bolleber, Julia Christianson, Ken Dahlberg, Laura B. DeLind, Maynard Kaufman, Bob & Linda Kidwell, Linda & Lee Purdy, Taylor Reid, Fred Reusch, Joe Scrimger, Leah and Jessie Smith, and Pat Whetham, nearly all of whom were deeply involved in the development of the organic movement in Michigan. The cover illustration and design was contributed by Laura B. DeLind.

Publisher

The book is published by Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance, familiarly known as MOFFA. As the book details, MOFFA was founded in 1992 as a non-profit organization with the mission of promoting organic agriculture and the development and support of food systems that revitalize and sustain local communities. MOFFA was one of the first organizations in Michigan and in the nation to actively promote these principles.

MOFFA welcomes new members to join us in creating a better food system for Michigan. Our members include farmers—both certified organic and not certified, food coops, educators, environmentalists, food businesses, food and farm activists and concerned citizens throughout Michigan and elsewhere. More information about MOFFA can be found online at www.moffa.net.

The book is available through amazon.com as well as the wholesale suppliers Ingram and Baker and Taylor; it is also available direct from MOFFA at www.moffa.net/the-organic-movement.html.



THE ORGANIC MOVEMENT IN MICHIGAN

Edited by Maynard Kaufman
and Julia Christianson

About The Book



Maynard Kaufman interrupted his teaching career at Western Michigan University in 1973 to supervise a living-learning School of Homesteading on his 160 acre farm near Bangor, Michigan. This led to his participation in

Organic Growers of Michigan (OGM) which also began meeting in 1973; his farm was one of the first six in Michigan to be certified organic. He continued to be active in the organic movement for the next 40 years, and played a leading role in the organization of Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance (MOFFA) in the early 1990s.



Julia Christianson had volunteered to collect and organize the written materials of OGM and MOFFA and prepare them to be archived—thus she also had access to the history of the organic movement. She came

across an outline for the book that Maynard had prepared several years ago and offered to help bring it to publication. MOFFA remains the organized advocate of the organic movement in Michigan, and it is the publisher of the book. Income from sales of the book will help to support MOFFA's ongoing activities.

The 19 chapters in the book encompass a wide variety of information: historical summaries of the major organic organizations, reports on various organic activities, and essays about the past, present and future of organic farming. They provide a record of both successes and failures, triumphs and tragedies, such as the fatal encounter of OGM with the Federal program for organic certification.

Reviews

Perhaps the best documented history of The Organic Movement generally comes out of Michigan. The writers—practitioners beginning in the early 70s—have bothered to write a comprehensive history of the local, organic, community supported story that de facto can serve as a primer for other states less far along. Sharing of ideas has long been a way of life for the movement so the already seasoned are sure to gain from a reading of this as well.

— Wes Jackson, President Emeritus of The Land Institute and author of books including *New Roots for Agriculture*, *Becoming Native to This Place*, and most recently *Nature as Measure*

We are fortunate that Michigan's organic pioneers, who were some of the nation's first to join in a formal grouping, have left a record in good hands. It is a familiar story of idealism, practical goals, triumphs and pratfalls running headlong into official apathy, internal disagreements, logistical challenges and finally growing pains as the demand for clean food takes off and begins to soar.

— Chris Walters, writing in *Acres USA*, December 2017

The Organic Movement in Michigan provides us with an excellent summary of how the organic movement evolved, on the farm, in our universities, and our communities, and it also reminds us of our current and future challenges. Very valuable. Other states and bioregions should consider publishing similar stories.

— Frederick Kirschenmann, author of *Cultivating an Ecological Conscience: Essays From a Farmer Philosopher*

Told in the voices of the people who lived it, loved it, and shared its successes and disappointments, *The Organic Movement in Michigan* will deepen your respect for those who have toiled against great odds to spread the organic way of life. This compilation constitutes an essential contribution to the history of the broader organic movement in the United States and worldwide.

— Kurt Cobb, writer of the energy and environment blog *Resource Insights* and author of *Prelude*, a peak oil novel

The Organic Movement in Michigan captures an important and often overlooked piece of the organic story by documenting the efforts of Michigan farmers and activists who toiled for decades to create a more sustainable agriculture system. With many chapters written by central players in the movement, readers can learn directly from those on the front lines of the organic effort. This book makes a unique contribution to our understanding of the rich history of the organic movement in the United States.

— Brian K. Obach, Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at New Paltz, and author of *Organic Struggle: The Movement for Sustainable Agriculture in the United States*

Told in doers' voices, *The Organic Movement in Michigan*, being invaluable history, is a realist's guide-book to a likely difficult but possible, locally engaged, post-petroleum, agrarian future. Well made, with fine introductory and concluding essays, a timeline, glossary, appendices, and an index that's an honor roll of Michigan's organic movement pioneers, it's a salient account of policy debates, mutual support networks, successes and failures and above all, a return to the essentials of soil health and skillful husbandry.

— Stephanie Mills, a longtime bioregionalist and author of *Epicurean Simplicity* and *In Service of the Wild*