

Organic Intensives

MOFFA ORGANIC INTENSIVES is a day-long, concentrated learning experience for farmers and serious gardeners. MOFFA held its first Organic Intensives in March, 2015 to offer current and future farmers, as well as serious gardeners, an opportunity to focus intensely on subjects for which there is substantial interest and a desire to reach a level of deep understanding. For 2019, MOFFA is working with individuals who are recognized experts and educators in one of four topic areas. Please join us and bring your friends.



Healthy Organic Livestock

Matt Shane, organic sheep farmer and MSUE livestock educator will discuss organic monitoring and treatment to maintain a pastured flock of small ruminants in optimum health in an organic system. Karry Trickey, NRCS district conservationist, will cover soil, soil biology, and pasture management techniques for rotational grazing. Join other livestock producers to learn more about grassland and ruminant management for health.

Organic Mushroom Cultivation

Learn how to grow gourmet mushrooms from mushroom scientist Chris Wright and long-time mushroom grower Michael Levine. Adding mushrooms to your diversified farm or backyard garden can be rewarding both financially and nutritionally. Chris and Mike will share their expertise and teach how to inexpensively grow oyster, shiitake, morel and other lucrative, high demand fungi. Presentations will include a brief overview of fungal biology and then focus on cultivating mushrooms via log, straw and mushroom bed production systems. The program will include hands-on demonstrations.



These tools are helping organic farmers get their crop off to a better start, cultivate to closer tolerances and allows them to do better field work. Although these tools may have to go on the wish list, organic growers should make themselves aware of the newest technology.

Technology in Organic Field Crops

Today's organic field crops such as corn, soybeans, dry beans, soft wheat and other small grains bring a premium and growing the best crop possible is in the best interest of the organic farmer. This OI introduces the producers to basics in

- Precision Planting
- Camera Guidance Cultivation
- Advanced Weed Management

Advanced Organic Soil Management

We all manage soil, and we all strive to improve it year by year. But often our efforts amount to a scattershot approach, addressing one aspect in one year, and switching gears the next without evaluating the effectiveness of our interventions, or continuing to monitor the state of the soil or the health of the crop. Soil health is measured multiple ways: fertility testing, mineral testing, biological assays and plant productivity. Understanding how to interpret these results and put them to use to improve soil health and plant health is critical to sustainable success. Dan Kittredge of the Bionutrient Food Association will entertain attendees for the day on soil testing interpretation and strategies to improve, maintain and monitor soil health, with an underlying message of improving food quality.



Date & Place

This year's Organic Intensives will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2019, at the Plant and Soil Sciences building at 1066 Bogue St. on the MSU campus in East Lansing.

Registration begins at 8:00 am. Sessions begin at 9:00 and last until 5:00, with a break for lunch in the conservatory, as well as short breaks during the morning and afternoon sessions.



The registration fee includes six hours of learning, lunch, and comprehensive printed materials. The cost for the full day of Organic Intensives is \$80 for MOFFA members and \$95 for non-members—but **only until December 15**. After that date, the registration fee will increase to \$90 for members and \$105 for non-members.

Sponsorships

MOFFA welcomes organizations and allied trade companies that are able to support our educational initiatives and efforts to keep the cost of OI and other educational events as affordable as possible for participants. Please contact us.

Scholarships

Please contact us if you are able to provide financial support for participants or if you would like to participate but are unable to pay the full registration cost.

More information will be available at
www.moffa.net/OI-2019.html.

About MOFFA

The Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance was organized in 1992 as a nonprofit 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 and get involved in creating a better food system for Michigan. Our members include organic and other farmers, food coops, educators, environmentalists, food businesses, food and farm activists and concerned citizens throughout Michigan and elsewhere.

Each year MOFFA sponsors and/or exhibits at a number of major conferences and festivals in Michigan, which allows us to reach many more individuals with our limited resources. We also maintain a website, www.moffa.net, and a Facebook page, and publish a quarterly newsletter.

All of this activity is made possible by the contributions of our members. If you haven't joined for this year, we hope you will take a few minutes to lend your support.

MOFFA

P.O. Box 26102 · Lansing MI 48909
moffaorganic@gmail.com
www.moffa.net

A background image of a greenhouse interior, showing rows of plants and the structural framework of the building. The image is slightly faded and serves as a backdrop for the event title.

MOFFA Organic Intensives 2019

January 12, 2019
East Lansing, MI