

# Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1995

Maynard Kaufman, Chair

In Behalf of the Board of Directors I am pleased to report that two major projects were added to MOFFA'S program of activities during 1995. All members should have received a copy of our new directory, *Eating Organically*, which lists producers and retailers of organic food in Michigan. A team of Board members and volunteers, headed by Laura DeLind, is already hard at work on the bigger and better 1996 directory. The Michigan Organic Harvest Festival was the other new project in 1995. This two-day food fair and program was coordinated by Merrill Clark and Betty Edmunds and occurred in Ann Arbor in late September, thanks to many volunteers.

Some of our other activities include the sponsorship of the "organic" program during ANR Week at Michigan State University on March 5. This program has once again been expertly coordinated by Laura DeLind and includes, for the first time, a play based on the life of Rachel Carson. It will be performed by acclaimed actress Kaiulani Lee in the evening of March 5. A brochure describing this program is being sent to members with our newsletter, *Michigan Organic Connections*. April Allison has taken on the responsibility of editing the newsletter.

The treasurers report for 1995 and a projected budget for 1996 are also included with this report. A careful look at the treasurer's report will show that our new projects were not quite self-supporting. This first year for them was a learning experience and steps have already been taken to make these projects more profitable in the future. It should also be understood that income from the SARE grant, the MDA grant and the MOFFA Day at Whole Foods supermarket was designated for the Harvest Festival. And, while cash receipts from the sale of items such as books, posters, t-shirts and directories did not yet cover expenses, we do have additional merchandise on hand to sell.

Although members of the Board were anxious about the success of our new projects at times during the year, in retrospect we are satisfied that these new projects are not only vital in the fulfillment of our mission but will be a fiscally-sound part of our activity. The budget and finance persons on the board, Grey Larison and Maynard Kaufman, are already thinking ahead about additional projects from which to seek funding from foundations. And our data base manager, Betty Edmunds, is providing lists and sending letters to prospective new members as part of our membership building campaign.

A majority of our total membership eventually approved of the proposed bylaw changes and the new bylaws are now in effect. Members who requested a copy will receive it soon.