



Michigan Organic Food & Farm Alliance

MOFFA Accomplishments for 2001

- 2001 was the final year of MOFFA's four year on-farm research and demonstration grant program in partnership with Michigan State University. From 1998 through 2001, MOFFA awarded over \$30,000 for on-farm research projects throughout Michigan. With funding from this program, the Michigan Land Trustees, and others, MOFFA also organized several education and outreach events: the West Michigan Organic Harvest Festival in September, the Growing Connections Harvest Festival at Kensington Metropark in early October, and the Southwest Michigan Organic Farmers Forum in late October. A summary report of the grant program will be available in early March 2002.
- We co-sponsored three organic sessions at the **Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference** in Gaylord on February 17. Organic farmers from around the state presented information on certification issues, organic livestock production and vegetable farming.
- MOFFA participated as a co-sponsor, exhibitor or speaker at a variety of **educational events**-- a public forum on genetically engineered foods at the Mason Public Library on February 15, an Earth Day event on April 17 at Wayne State University in Detroit, the April 19-22 Women's Expo in Grand Rapids, the July 13 organic apple field day at Clarksville, Rural/Urban Unity Day on August 17.
- MOFFA held its annual meeting on March 3 at the **Michigan Conference on Organic Agriculture** at Michigan State University. MOFFA also co-sponsored the conference. Grey Larison, Gail Campana, Maynard Kaufman and others kept the popcorn popping during one of the conference breaks.
- Merrill Clark, MOFFA Board member, continued to serve on the **Michigan Organic Advisory Committee**. This Committee serves as advisors to the Michigan Department of Agriculture under the Michigan Organic Products Act. The Act became effective in October 2001.
- The MOFFA Board held its **annual retreat** at Camp Manitou-Lin, in Middleville, on October 19 and 20.

- With support from the MOFFA/MSU grant program, MOFFA purchased a new computer system. Gail Campana put the computer to good use by introducing a new look for our **Michigan Organic Connections** newsletter and the **MOFFA website** (www.moffa.org).
- Over 1000 copies of MOFFA's 1999 Edition of **Eating Organically** guide were distributed for free throughout Michigan. MOFFA thanks Susan Smalley and MSU's Sustainable Agriculture program for its support of the guide. A September 2001 update was added to our website for the first time.
- MOFFA collaborated with the Michigan Department of Agriculture Risk Management Program to staff an organic agriculture display at the December **Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo** in Grand Rapids. Fruit and vegetable farmers answered visitor questions and provided materials for farmers interested in organics.
- As a member of the **Michigan Environmental Council**, MOFFA stood behind MEC's critique of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as part of the **Dereliction of Duty** report, and we agreed to support the MEC 2002 agenda for Michigan's environment. Merrill Clark, as liaison, continues to work with MEC to better integrate organic agriculture into MEC's work.
- MOFFA introduced a new member service--the monthly **MOFFA News Group** by e-mail. This service, coordinated by Carol Osborne, provides current updates on events, volunteer opportunities, resource and research news, and items of interest in the world of organic farming and local food systems.

Thank you to all who have contributed to MOFFA through their time, money or other support. Special thanks go out to these MOFFA members and friends for their help in 2001: Agriculture and Health Alive, Jason Fligger, Kathy and Dale Houston, Carolyn Koch, John Masterson and Patty Withey, Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems, Meg Moynihan, Organic Growers of Michigan, Gita Posselt, Gene Purdum, Joe Scrimger, Van Buren County MSU Extension.

This report is presented by MOFFA's 2001-2002 Board of Directors.

Carol Osborne, Chair	Jan Ryan	Lisa Wesala
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