Organic Intensives

Saturday, January 9, 2027

We invite you to join us on Saturday, January 9th for a one-day in-depth learning experience. Organic Intensives are an opportunity to acquire practical, detailed information over the course of a day with fellow Michigan farmers and gardeners. For 2027 our presenters will be experts and producers in four topic areas:

Growing Without Plastics: Tools, Techniques, and Alternatives

How can small farms reduce plastic without sacrificing productivity? This track explores innovative approaches to propagation, mulching, cultivation, trellising, and post-harvest handling using natural, reusable, and locally available materials. Sessions will highlight practical techniques for growing and selling food with less plastic, while also considering how thoughtful farm systems can minimize waste, increase efficiency, and maximize value and profits with less work.

Ben Hartman, author of The Lean Farm, will also share practical strategies for applying lean farming principles to reduce waste, streamline farm operations, and create greater value with less effort.

Permaculture and Food Forests: Making Permaculture Real

Explore how permaculture principles can move from ideas into practical, thriving food forests. This learning session introduces the basics of designing, planting, and caring for regenerative gardens and farms that work with nature.

Growing and Marketing Food Grade Grains for Craft Beverages

Explore sustainable grain production and marketing for Michigan's craft beverage industry. Designed for farmers entering the grain market and experienced organic and sustainable producers, this track offers practical guidance on regenerative growing practices, crop resilience, grain quality, and post-harvest handling and storage. Expert speakers will also explore market opportunities, strategies for strengthening local supply chains, and ways to promote the distinctive value of Michigan-grown craft beverage ingredients.

From Soil to Harvest: Practical Tools for Healthier Soil and Better Crops

Join Dane Terrill of Crop Services International, Inc for a practical one-day introduction to soil health designed specifically for small farmers, market gardeners, homesteaders, and beginning growers. We'll explore the fascinating world beneath the soil surface—from beneficial microbes, minerals and carbon and the connection to healthy roots, nutrient cycling, and the connection to the above ground plants and productivity. Starting with the basics of soil testing, and more importantly how to understand and interpret the results; attendees will learn how to turn those numbers into practical management decisions. We'll also introduce different plant monitoring tools on how to use them as the "ultimate" scorecard in-season as tools for watching crop performance throughout the growing season. No advanced science degree required—just curiosity and a desire to grow better! Come learn how to connect what's happening in your soil with what you see in your plants, and leave with practical tools you can put to work immediately to build healthier soil, better-quality crops, and a more productive farm or garden.

With 2027 Keynote Speaker George W. Bird

The event will take place on Saturday, January 9th, at the Plant and Soil Sciences Building on the MSU campus in East Lansing. The day begins with registration at 8:00; a keynote speaker at 9:00; and sessions begin at 10:00 and end at 5:00. The registration fee includes six hours of learning, lunch, and comprehensive printed materials. For more information, please visit http://moffa.net/organic-intensives/, give us a call at 248-262-6826, or write us at the address below.

MOFFA · P.O. Box 26102 Lansing, MI 48909 · 248-262-6826 · moffaorganic@gmail.com · www.moffa.net