



FSEP In The News!

Public News Service: With the national deficit causing drastic funding cuts, jobs in food and farming are at risk due to the cuts proposed in the 2012 Farm Bill. FSEP highlights the impact of the farming industry on Michigan's economy and urges Congress to preserve programs that support the industry.

Farmers' Market Promotion Program awarded to FSEP

FSEP was recently awarded a USDA Farmers' Market Promotion Program grant for farm equipment for the Tilian Farm Development Center. This funding is allowing us to support new and beginning farmers by removing one of the major barriers to farming which is access to capital. The average age of Michigan farmers continues to rise and there are not enough new farm businesses starting up. Ann Arbor Township has been a major partner in this effort, along with Selma Cafe, and local food advocates. Check out the Tilian farmers <http://tilianfarmers.blogspot.com/p/our-farmers.html> and for more information about the award, visit <http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/fmpp-2011awards/>

October is National Farm to School Month

Many schools in southeast Michigan have launched Farm to School programs in the last few years with FSEP's assistance. October is the first ever National Farm to School month. There are now Farm to School programs in all 50 states. Alan Breneman, Food Service Director with Concord Community Schools in Jackson County has been a leader in sourcing local food from area farms for the school meals program. Click [here](#) for more information about Concord's successful Farm to School program

Healthy Food as Economic Development: Cleveland to Southeast Michigan

Hosted at Spark East on September 27, Cleveland City Councilman Joe Cimperman shared his experiences as a leader in the local food movement. He discussed obstacles he has faced and successes he has brought to Cleveland. The importance of community gardens was explained in direct relation to local health and economy. He emphasized the importance of fresh food access to lower income households and how land use in Cleveland is promoting local food production and creating jobs. Cleveland is currently taking proactive efforts to prevent obesity and malnutrition by implementing programs in grocery stores that display easy to read labeling of foods' nutrition information.

Sunseed Farm hiring two Assistant Farmers

Sunseed Farm is hiring two full-time Assistant Farmers for the 2012 growing season, with opportunity for year-round employment. Sunseed Farm is a year-round diversified vegetable farm just five miles from downtown Ann Arbor. If you have experience working physically or on organic farms and are strongly motivated to discover with us the best and most efficient ecological farming methods, visit www.farmsunseed.com or email Tomm Becker at farm.sunseed@gmail.com for more information.

Upcoming Fall Events

November 8-11 - Equity Summit 2011 - The Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

The Fourth national PolicyLink Summit will meet for the first time in Detroit to share a proactive outlook on building sustainable and equal jobs, transportation, education, health, and housing for all communities. For registration as well as information on organizing a delegation or caucus, visit www.equitysummit2011.org/.

October 22 - The Detroit Fall Beer Festival - The Eastern Market, Detroit.

The Michigan Brewers Guild present the 3rd annual festival, showcasing 50 Michigan breweries. This finale of "Beer Week" will present beer tasting and live local music and entertainment. Purchase tickets at: michiganbrewersguild.com.

Local Orchards and Cider Mills

Dexter Cider Mill: 734-426-8531 3685 Central Street, Dexter 48130

The Frosty Apple: 734-426-2863 6920 Walsh, Dexter 48130

Wasem Fruit Farm: 734-482-2342 6580 Judd Road, Milan 48160

Wiard's Orchards and County Fair: 734-482-7744 5565 Merritt Road, Ypsilanti 48197

Lutz Orchard: 734-429-5145 11030 Macon Road, Saline 48176

Obstbaum Orchards: 734-560-2840 9252 Currie Rd, Salem 48167

Apple Charlies: 734-753-9380 38035 South Huron Road, New Boston 48164

Aston Orchard: 248-627-6671 3825 E. Seymour Lake Rd, Ortonville 48462

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