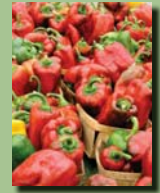
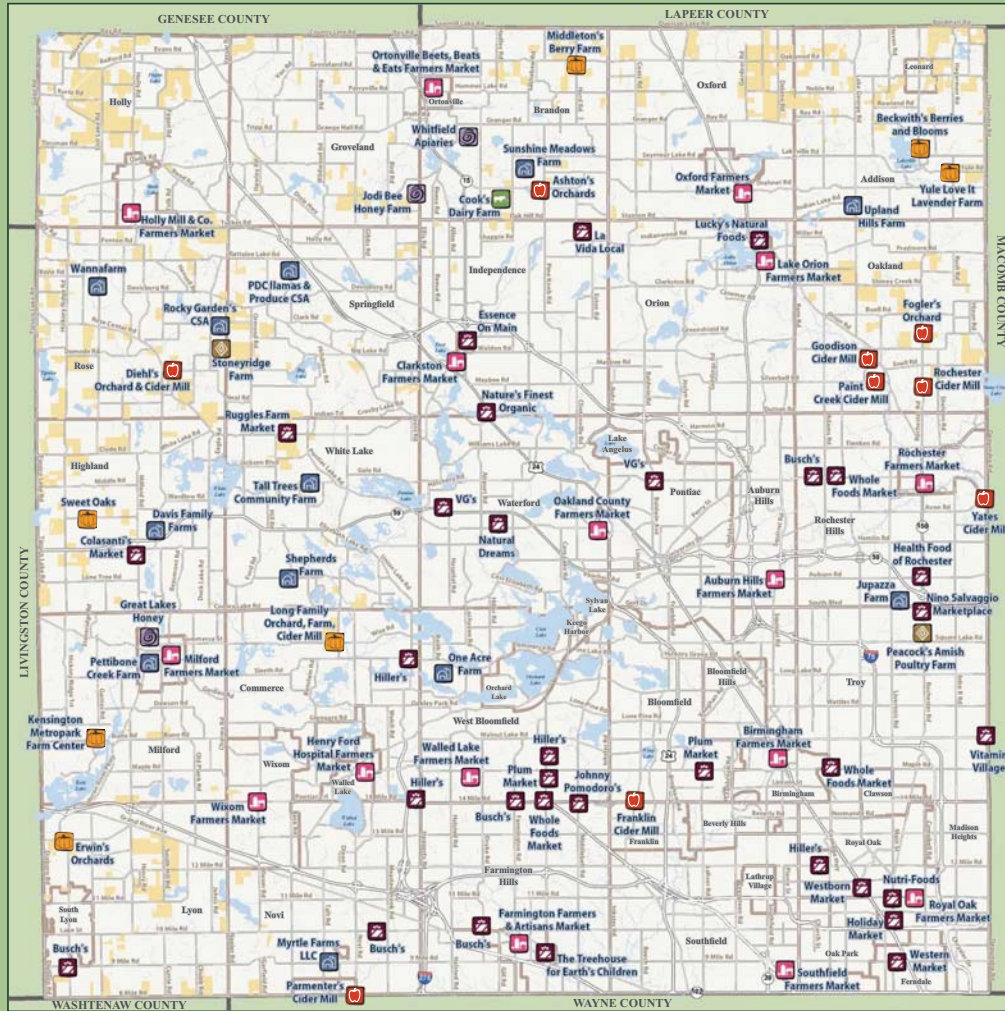


# LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES OF OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

"If every Michigan household spent just \$10 per week on Michigan produced food, it would keep \$40 million per week in the state." -Select Michigan



**Legend:**

- Farmers Market
- Orchard
- U-Pick
- Meat
- Lakes & Rivers
- Agricultural Land
- Municipal Boundary
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- Honey
- Local Food Retailer
- Dairy

**Scale:** 0 1 2 3 miles

Printed on recycled paper

**ARE WE FORGETTING SOMETHING?**

This map is a work in progress and is by no means comprehensive. We know we probably overlooked a few things, so please share your ideas with us. Contact us at: [planninggroup@oakgov.com](mailto:planninggroup@oakgov.com). Make sure to check out the websites and additional resources below for more information.

Photographs were provided by the City of Farmington, Village of Holly, Oakland County Parks, and MSU Extension Oakland County. The map was last updated on May 21, 2010.

## 8 REASONS TO SUPPORT LOCAL FARMING AND BUY LOCAL FOOD

1. Requires fewer preservatives, fresher, and is high in nutritional value
2. Uses less packaging, transport, and energy to bring to market
3. Supports farmers and creates local jobs
4. Preserves farmland and rural community character
5. Supports Michigan's 2nd largest industry - agriculture
6. Attracts people to town centers through farmers markets
7. Creates a multiplier effect as dollars re-circulate through communities
8. Connects consumers with small scale farmers and niche markets

### THE FACTS

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

#### STATE:

(1992)

- 46,562 farms with average size of 217 acres per farm
- = 10 million acres were being used for farmland
- Average production income for a farm was \$55,043
- Crop sales accounted for 56% of market value
- Livestock sales accounted for 44% of market value

(2007)

- 56,014 farms with average size of 179 acres per farm
- = 10 million acres were being used for farmland
- Average age of principal operator was 56 years old
- Average production income for a farm was \$102,710
- Crop sales accounted for 58% of market value
- Livestock sales accounted for 42% of market value

#### COUNTY:

(1992)

- ~500 farms with average size of 96 acres per farm
- 48,236 acres were being used for farmland
- Average age of principal operator was 53 years old
- Average production income for a farm was \$49,720
- Crop sales accounted for 92% of market value
- Livestock sales accounted for 8% of market value
- Steady decrease in farmland usage since 1982

(2007)

- 588 farms with average size of 55 acres per farm
- 32,504 acres were agriculture (~6% of the county)
- Average age of principal operator was 57 years old
- Average production income for a farm was \$31,987
- Crop sales accounted for 81% of market value
- Livestock sales accounted for 19% of market value

### THE NEW OLD ECONOMY

Agriculture, one of the world's oldest economies, is being advanced locally by new techniques shown below.

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING...

##### Hoophouses

- Can be used to extend the growing season and provide restaurants, markets, and other venues with ripe tomatoes and other high-demand vegetables as early as June
- Allow farmers to grow as many as 30 different cold-tolerant crops
- Cost less to build and operate than other types of greenhouses
- The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has added hoophouses as an eligible practice under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - Michigan is now on this list

##### SPIN (5-small P-lot IN-tensive) Farming

- Precise revenue targeting formulas and organic-based techniques make it possible to gross \$50,000+ from a half acre
- Fits well into any lifestyle (city/country) and can be done part- or full-time
- Don't need to own the land- you can rent
- SPIN was started over 20 years ago in Saskatoon, Canada
- Example: Somerton Tanks Farm in Pennsylvania generated more than \$50,000 in gross sales in its 3rd year growing high-value vegetables on a 1/2 acre plot next to 2 city water towers

##### Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

- Community Supported Agriculture consists of a community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation and share the risks and benefits of food production
- "Share-holders" pay a subscription fee before the growing season, and will receive weekly "shares" of seasonal produce throughout the farming season
- Beneficial to both farmer and consumer and helps to create a more connected community
- "Shares" can also include things such as eggs, homemade bread, meat, cheese, flowers, or other farm products

##### Individual Development Account (IDA)

- Program uses funds from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to match money that an entrepreneur saves toward needed business investments
- Van Buren County Extension partnered with C.S. Mott Group and became Michigan's only example of this program in the Agricultural field
- Low-cost way to make a big difference for beginning farmers who have limited resources
- Michigan could use more local IDA programs and the business support networks they build

**Additional Resources:**

- Michigan Farm to School: [www.mifarmtoschool.msu.edu](http://www.mifarmtoschool.msu.edu)
- Michigan Market Maker: [www.mimarketmaker.msu.edu](http://www.mimarketmaker.msu.edu)
- Michigan Food & Farming Systems: [www.mifffs.org](http://www.mifffs.org)
- Local Harvest: [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org)
- Food System Economic Partnership of Southeast MI: [www.fsepmichigan.org](http://www.fsepmichigan.org)
- C.S. Mott Group: [www.mottgroup.msu.edu](http://www.mottgroup.msu.edu)
- Garden Resource Program Collaborative: [www.detroitagriculture.org](http://www.detroitagriculture.org)
- Taste the Local Difference: [www.localdifference.org](http://www.localdifference.org)
- Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA): [www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu](http://www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu)
- SPIN Farming: [www.spinfarming.com](http://www.spinfarming.com)

Map Created By: **OAKLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN** [www.advantageoakland.com](http://www.advantageoakland.com)

In Partnership With: **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION OAKLAND COUNTY** [www.msu.edu/oakland](http://www.msu.edu/oakland)

**BOTTOM LINE:** Local food is fresher, supports local businesses, supports local communities, requires less energy to bring to market, builds connections between producers and consumers, and it tastes great!