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Michigan's Emerging Farmers – Strategies And Tools To Enhance Success

Presenter – Michelle Napier-Dunnings
Michigan Food and Farming Systems

PD – Michael W. Hamm

Michigan State University

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development
Program Award No [2015-70017-22856]



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Project Audience

- Who are you aiming to help?
 - Where are they: Michigan
 - Who are they (primarily): Hispanic, women, young farmers
 - Type of farming/ranching/forest management – primarily fruits and vegetables
 - Stage of farming: exploring and in first 10 years primarily



Partners/Collaborators

- Who are the key people on your team?
 - **Mike Hamm** – MSU CRFS – project director
 - **Michelle Napier-Dunnings** – MIFFS – connector to WIA and FOTM; facilitator for WIA
 - **Jeremy Moghtader** – MSU-SOF – oversees development of workshops; link to students at Organic Farmer Training Program
 - **Lacey Ingrao** – MIFFS – land access
 - **Shakara Tyler** – MSU CRFS – financial capital and access
 - **Tom Cary** and **Megan DeLeeuw** – MSU SOF – develop training programs and oversee
 - **Susan Smalley** – Independent Contractor - evaluator



Key Approach(es)

- How are you helping?
- Workshops/courses/demonstrations – some in Spanish
- Incubator farm – with WIA
- Technical assistance – land access, financial capital access



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Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this project, we will have helped:

- Started farming. Target: 15 during 3 years
- Continued farming. Target: 20 over 3 years
- Changed business practices. Target: 40 over 3 years
- Changed farming/land management practices. Target: 40 over 3 years
- Changed marketing practices. Target: 40 over 3 years
- Developed a farm plan. Target: 25 over 3 years



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What do you have to share?

- Alternative financing strategies (in development)
- Full time training program strategies
- Working specifically with women entering farming



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What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Experiences regarding land access
- Experiences with alternative financing
- Innovative strategies for farmer training in different cultural backgrounds



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MIFFS Women in Ag Network





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WIA Connects





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WIA Creates





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WIA Empowers





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Keep in touch!

Michelle Napier-Dunnings michelle@miffs.org;
<http://www.miffs.org>

Michael W. Hamm mhamm@msu.edu
<http://foodsystems.msu.edu>