



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 15, 2007

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## **Michigan Farmers Market Association Announces Last Call for Charter Memberships**

As farmers markets begin to slow down with the last of summer's harvest, markets, growers and friends continue to join the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) as charter members. While markets may be winding down, MIFMA is gearing up for its founding meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> during which the charter members will elect the first board of directors and ratify the bylaws. Charter memberships will be available now thru November 15, 2007.

The Michigan Farmers Market Association advances farmers markets to create a thriving marketplace for local food and farm products and places farmers markets at the forefront of the local food movement, working to ensure all residents have access to healthy, locally grown food and that Michigan farmers markets receive policy support.

Michigan has more than 160 farmers markets, and so far, more than 30 of them have joined MIFMA and become market members. In addition, 8 farmer/vendor members, 16 individual members and 6 organizational members have joined, raising membership dues to support the operations of the association and awareness of farmers markets statewide. View the list of charter members online at [www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu](http://www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu).

MIFMA charter memberships offer many benefits, including the chance to be involved in ratifying bylaws for the organization and electing the first board of directors at the MIFMA founding meeting on December 6, 2007. Other benefits include:

- Receiving reduced rates at MIFMA sponsored workshops and events
- Receiving a 10% discount on purchases made at Eat Local Food, a merchandising and art design company focused on farmers markets, (see [www.eatlocalfood.com](http://www.eatlocalfood.com))
- Receiving reduced rates on Rapid Market Assessments and market evaluation services
- Having an opportunity to collaborate with other MIFMA members to make bulk purchases, therefore reducing cost of farmers' market related items
- Being highlighted in the directory listing on [www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu](http://www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu)
- Receiving up-to-date information on all Michigan farmers market happenings through monthly e-newsletters and the listserv

Are you interested in learning more or becoming a MIFMA charter member? Visit [www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu](http://www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu) for membership fees and categories or call 517-432-3381. Anyone can join MIFMA and take advantage of great networking and resources for making Michigan farmers markets as successful as they can be.