



MICHIGAN FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION

Michigan Farmers Markets Top "Most Loved" Charts

"Top 100 Farmers Markets" Winners in Michigan

1. **Flint Farmers Market**
(MIFMA Member)
24. **Port Austin Farmers Market**
25. **Mount Clemens Farmers Market**
59. **Royal Oak Farmers Market**
72. **Allen Street Farmers Market in Lansing**
(MIFMA Member)
81. **Grand Blanc Farmers Market**
91. **Sweetwater Local Foods Market in Muskegon**
94. **Downtown Ypsilanti Farmers Market**
(MIFMA Member)

It's official – Michigan loves its farmers markets! More than most states, in fact, according to the "Most Loved Farmers' Market in America" contest recently held by national health, environmental, and agricultural support web organizations, Care2.com and LocalHarvest.org. The contest, which started on June 19th and ended September 17th, encouraged people all across the United States to cast a vote online for their favorite market. Of the more than 5,000 markets across the country, hundreds entered the contest, but Michigan's beloved Flint Farmers' Markets won the "Most Loved Farmers' Market in America" with 6,174 votes.

Seven other farmers markets from Michigan also made the "Top 100 Most Loved Farmers' Markets in America" list, which is online at http://www.care2.com/farmersmarket/top_markets.

The Flint Farmers' Market is more than 100 years old, beginning in 1905 as the earliest recorded open air market. Today, it is a year round public market which heavily supports locally grown produce during the Michigan growing season.

"We are certainly not the largest and we don't claim to be the best, but we will proudly accept the designation of 'Most Loved Market in America,'" said Market Manager Dick Ramsdell. "We call ourselves the Flint Farmers' Market, but we are clear to point out that we are a year round public market. This win is a tribute to the steadfast loyalty of our customers and supporters, near and far."

"This was a huge team effort by staff, vendors, customers and our local media partners. We came TOGETHER as a community to win this for Flint. This win says a lot about the people of Flint and Genesee County," said Karianne Martus, Market Public Relations Director. "As a market family we are humbled and proud to be the recipient of this prestigious title."

In addition to the title, the Flint Farmers Market received a first place prize of \$5,000, which will be used in the Flint area to further market efforts to educate the community on the importance of eating locally grown food.

What's Happening?

- **October 7, 2009:**
Rapid Market Assessment at Ann Arbor Farmers Market
 - **October 8, 2009:**
Michigan Farmers Markets Food Assistance Partnership Conference Call
 - **October 12, 2009:**
MSU Student Organic Farm Tour, contact admontri@msu.edu to register
 - **October 13, 2009:**
Rapid Market Assessment at Ypsilanti Farmers Market
 - **October 15, 2009:**
MIFMA Professional Development Conference Call
 - **October 17, 2009:**
Farmington's Culturally Delicious Farmers and Artisans Market Tour, www.learngreatfoods.com/mi_MIFMA.php
 - **October 25, 2009:**
Just Outside Your Window, Inaugural Michigan Sustainable Stoup Competition, www.brownpapertickets.com/event/71894
 - **October 29, 2009:**
MIFFS Annual Harvest Celebration, www.miffs.org/harvestcelebration.asp
- For more information regarding these listings, call 517-432-3381.



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

MIFMA Member of the Month: *Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market*

An Interview with Scott Stevenson, Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market Manager



Farmington's "Culturally Delicious" Farmers & Artisans Market Tour is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17th. What do you have in store for tour participants and why should folks register now?

We are excited and honored to host the "Culturally Delicious" market tour this season at the Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market. Attendees will be treated to guided tours of our market, with the opportunity to get to know the fine, hard-working farmers and growers that bring ultra-fresh produce from the fields to their tables. Each farmer will have the chance to tell folks about their farms, when they were established, what they grow, and their philosophy about why they feel it important to offer quality, locally-grown food to the people of Southeastern Michigan. The tour participants will also be able to hear select local artisans and crafters talk about themselves and methods of creating some of the unique products they offer.

The chef's cooking demonstration and 3-course lunch with market ingredients will top off the experience and illustrate how good fresh really is!

Winners of the 5th Annual Scarecrow Contest will be announced at the market on the day of the tour. Tell us more about the market's scarecrow competition.

Farmington's 5th Annual Scarecrow Building Contest is an event that has drawn increased excitement from an ever-widening swath of our community. Each year, the challenge has been offered to create fantastic, whimsical themed scarecrows to celebrate the fall harvest season and contribute to the sense of shared participation in our town-wide Harvest Moon Celebration. Each year, we've seen a response surprisingly diverse in scope and quality.

Community groups, businesses and individuals each have their own category, and there are cash prizes for those judged outstanding. Once judged, the entries

are displayed throughout our downtown, which makes for a great fall visual, and encourages folks to walk around, looking for either their contribution or those of their friends and neighbors. It's a lot of fun, and just another way to connect the community at large with their city and with those who do business here.

There is a great diversity of products at your market, including farm fresh produce and crafts. Tell us more about this special mix of farmers and artisans that come together in Farmington each Saturday.

Since its inception, the Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market has strived to fulfill the desire of customers from within our community and beyond to have fresh, healthy alternatives to offer to their families. In keeping with the local aspect, we determined that showcasing the talents of some of the area artisans and crafters would provide a nice addition to the market, and perhaps encourage customers to linger. We rotate many of these participants each week, creating another reason for customers to return on a regular basis to see what's new. Paintings, jewelry, garden art, pottery, hand-woven baskets, photography and hand-made soaps are a few examples of what's offered on any given Saturday.

The Downtown Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market is a member of MIFMA. Why do you feel it is important for your market to be involved in MIFMA?

Being a charter member of MIFMA has been a point of pride for us in Farmington. The association has been a wealth of information and assistance to us, not only for establishing a new footprint and philosophy when the market's venue, size and look were changed a few years ago, but also with the ongoing challenges of weekly operations. The boot camps, abundant resources and dedicated staff are what make our membership very worthwhile.

What is one thing you want every MIFMA member to know about your farmers market?

That we are proud to be part of an ever-growing group of good folk dedicated to advancing the concept of local - food, arts & crafts, etc. and underlining the benefits of community gathering and interaction. It has been personally gratifying to see more and more people obviously enjoying themselves at our market, and the hope is that perhaps we're helping to create new habits and understanding to pass to next generations.

Join MIFMA today to receive special member pricing for the 2009 Learn Great Foods and MIFMA Farmers Market Tours.

Upcoming Farmers Market Tours:

- Farmington's "Culturally Delicious" Farmers and Artisans Market Tour
Sat. Oct. 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Frankenmuth's "Festive Seasonings" Farmers Market Tour
Sat. Nov. 28, 3-8 p.m.

Join us at each tour for:

- A Guided shopping tour
- A Cooking demonstration
- A Gourmet meal made with fresh ingredients

To learn more or register, visit www.learngreatfoods.com/mi_MIFMA.php

