

GUPAA GROWING REPORT

March 2016



**GUPAA Annual Meeting
Wednesday
March 30, 2016,
11:00 – 2:30 ET**

**Heirman University Center,
Room 952
Bay College
Escanaba, MI**

GUPAA needs your support - Come to the meeting and bring a neighbor!

GUPAA Growing Report

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The Growing UP Ag Association (GUPAA) will be conducting their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 30th, Room 952, Heirman University Center at Bay College in Escanaba with registration beginning at 10:30 am ET. GUPAA will begin their annual business meeting at 11:00 am and discuss previous activities and future agricultural concerns relating to the UP. Collin Thompson, Farm Manager at Michigan State University's Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center North Farm, will deliver a presentation at approximately 1:30 pm providing information regarding the establishment and current activities at the North Farm.

The MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center was originally founded in 1899 just north of Chatham, Michigan. The North Farm was established in 2014 at the original location and is an incubator farm specializing in diversified organic vegetable production, research, education, and outreach for northern latitude climates. The focus is building healthy soils, food, people, and communities. Using organic and sustainable practices coupled with season extension technologies, they are growing a wide variety of vegetables. The farm functions as both a production and teaching facility, and aims to provide healthy, fresh, nutrient-dense produce to the local markets.

The GUPAA board and research advisory committee also reviewed the Project GREEN Research Priorities and Livestock Priorities for the UP which are listed below.

Top Agronomy Priorities

1. Promote the integration of crop and livestock systems.
2. Investigate and develop methods to improve soil health.
3. Evaluate cost-effective methods to maintain or increase the economic viability of forage production in the UP.

4. Continue to investigate and develop malting barley and other potential cash crop production and marketing.

Top Livestock Priorities

1. Promote the integration of crop and livestock systems.
2. Investigate programs that add value to UP produced Holstein deacon calves and other classes of livestock.
3. Encourage methods to enhance small and/or beginning farm development and sustainability.
4. Utilize the beef herd at the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center to enhance research capabilities.

The Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture (M-AAA) is a partnership between Michigan's animal agriculture industries, the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU AgBioResearch and MSU Extension to advance the state's animal agriculture economy by supporting applied research and outreach efforts that address key issues identified by the industry. To identify these issues, various animal agriculture stakeholder organizations submit three priorities to provide a framework for the distribution of funds in the following categories: 1) Applied Research, 2) Extension and 3) Seed Grants. GUPAA was recently accepted as the U.P. stakeholder organization and is proposing the following priorities:

- ◆ Integration of annual crops into livestock production systems
- ◆ Investigate programs that add value to U.P. produced Holstein deacon calves
- ◆ Methods to enhance U.P. farm development and sustainability

GUPAA members will have the opportunity to discuss and ratify these lists of priorities at this year's annual meeting.

GUPAA ANNUAL MEETING

March 30, 2016, 11:00 – 2:30 ET

**Heirman University Center, Room 952
Bay College
Escanaba, MI**

- 10:30-11:00 Registration - \$10.00
(includes GUPAA membership dues)
- 11:00-12:30 Annual Business Meeting
 - Minutes of previous meeting
 - Treasurer’s Report
 - Year in Review
 - Old Business
 - a. Research Priorities
 - b. Previous Grants
 - New Business
 - a. Future Grants
 - b.
 - MSU Updates
 - Annual Election
 - Service to Agriculture Award
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch—\$10.00
- 1:30-2:30 “The North Farm”
 - Collin Thompson, MSU Extension Educator
- 2:30 Adjourn

BOARD ELECTIONS

The current GUPAA board members and the expiration of their terms are as follows:

Region I - Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Schoolcraft Counties — Dick Pershinske, 2016; Jon Haindl, 2017

Region II - Delta, Alger, Marquette Counties — Ben Bartlett, 2016; Steve Cotey, 2017

Region III - Dickinson, Iron, Menominee Counties — Jon Ahlberg, 2016; Shannon Linderoth, 2017

Region IV - Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw, Ontonagon Counties — Duane Kolpack, 2016; Gary Palosaari, 2017

At Large - Dan Bahrman, 2016; Ken Veaser, 2017; Jim Dalgord, 2018

You will notice that the terms for Dick Pershinske, Ben Bartlett, Jon Ahlberg, Duane Kolpack, and Dan Barhman are up, with Ben, Duane, and Dan eligible for re-election. Under the bylaws, an individual is allowed to serve on the board for two consecutive terms. Unfortunately, Dick Pershinske and Jon Ahlberg are not eligible for re-election. We will miss them, but are confident they will remain active in support of UP agriculture. Nominations to the board must come from members within that respective region. So we strongly encourage you to call us in advance at (906)439-5114 with your nominations to expedite the election process.

ANNUAL DUES

It is also time to pay this year’s dues for GUPAA. Most people will pay their \$10.00 dues when they attend the Annual Meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please fill out the form below and remit your dues as soon as possible.

Please send to: GUPAA, MSU U.P. Research Center, P.O. Box 168, Chatham, MI 49816

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____