



# UP Ag Connections

725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953

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## NEWS & VIEWS

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Congratulations to Johnson Farms, they submitted the Grand Champion entry into the World Forage Analysis Superbowl at the 2014 World Dairy Expo. They received a check for \$2500 at the awards banquet. I spoke with Ed Johnson and he told me they were invited to attend the banquet and they were going to receive an award. So Ed and sons Dave and Dennis attend the banquet and watch them give out all the awards for each category and look at each other wondering if they really are going to receive an award. And then they announce the final award, Grand Champion over all entries. Their champion entry was of corn silage it prevailed over 468 entries in seven divisions submitted from 25 states and provinces.

I speak often in this newsletter that we in agriculture need to stick together. That it can't be about big vs small, organic vs commercial. We all have a job to do in producing high quality food for consumers.

A few issues back I was congratulating Jake and Elaine Jahfetson for being the MMPA 2013 Milk Quality Award Winner for the state of Michigan. The Jahfetson's are one of the smaller dairy farms in the U.P. Producing high quality milk with 20 plus cows is as great of a challenge as it is with hundreds. One cow with mastitis can screw up the whole works. The Jahfetsons are an excellent example of small dairy farmers producing high quality product with commitment to doing so.

The Johnsons serve as an excellent example of a large producer that does a great job of producing high quality product. Dave and Dennis took Ed's modest sized dairy farm and built it to be the largest dairy farm in the U.P. Dave's son Cubby has started his own operation with the same commitment to quality and cow care. As evidenced by the quality of feed they produce and milk production records from DHIA records do a great job of managing and caring for cows with attention to detail.

I truly believe that it's not about the size of your operation, the commodities you produce or the environment that you produce food. It really is about being committed to profitably producing high quality food for the consumers.

~Frank

## Table of Contents

2...	Market Report, Wanted and For Sale	3...	Pesticide Applicator Cert, Farm Bill Dates
4...	November FSA News	5...	Michigan Hay Sellers List
6...	Will my Alfalfa Survive winter?	7...	Sponsors—THANK YOU!
8...	Calendar		

## **MARKET REPORT** (10/20/14)

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

### **Market Ready Prices**

Choice Steers	\$140-\$169	per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$125-\$155	per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$77-\$87	per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$160-\$180	per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$70-\$117	per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$175-\$450	per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$125-\$150	per 100 lbs.

### **Breeding and Feeder Animals**

Grade Holstein cows	\$2100 - 2700 per head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$2000 - 3000 per head

### **Feed Prices across the U.P.**

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
<b>Corn</b>	\$11.65	\$233.00	\$180-286
<b>Soymeal</b>	\$29.10	\$582.00	\$400-764
<b>Oats</b>	\$17.05	\$341.00	\$250-432
<b>Barley</b>	\$13.23	\$264.50	\$180-349

Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots

## **Wanted & For Sale Listings**

Personal ads will be removed monthly. We reserve the right to edit your ad. Free ads must be no more than 110 spaces. Please respect the space requirements. You can always purchase an ad if more space is required. Please call or email your ad no later than the 15th of each month. Call the Ontonagon County MSU Extension office at 906-884-4386 or email msue66@msu.edu.

Hay For Sale—Grass/Clover 2200 bales, 65-70 lb. bales \$3.75 per bale. Call 906-246-3049 Dickinson County Also Spring Red Wheat 800-1000 bushels for sale \$5-6.00 per bushel.

Watch for online sale that Clay Knoll Farms will be hosting in December details in the December newsletter—check the website for details as well [clayknoll-farms@yahoo.com](mailto:clayknoll-farms@yahoo.com)

### **Dairy MPP Ed Program – 5 Teleconferences Across the U.P.**

The USDA - Farm Service Agency has extended the sign up for the Dairy Margin Protection Program (DMPP) to December 5. Michigan State University will be broadcasting an educational program as a follow-up program to the DMPP educational programs conducted earlier this summer. Five teleconference sites have been established across the U.P.: Menominee County Extension Office, Delta County Extension Office, Houghton County Extension Office, U.P. Research and Extension Center in Chatham and the USDA-FSA SERVICE CENTER OFFICE, In SAULT STE MARIE. The program will be conducted on November 20, from 12:30-2:30 EST, 11:30-1:30 CST.

## **Agriculturally Speaking...Career opportunities abound in MI Food and Agriculture**

By Jamie Clover Adams, MDARD Director

I'm the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, but I'm also a mom. And, like all moms, I want the best for my daughter. We've reached that point in her life where she's exploring post-secondary education and career opportunities. While it's her decision to make, I'm encouraging her to seriously consider a career in the food and agriculture sector.

Opportunities abound in Michigan's food and agriculture economy - from the farm field to the consumers' plate. The sector's impact on the state's economy has nearly reached Governor Rick Snyder's goal of \$100 billion annually—not to mention our exports into global markets have increased 85 percent over the last three years.

Career possibilities span the sector from herd managers, food scientists, lab technicians, sales managers, bankers, meat cutters, grain traders and veterinarians to plant managers, craft brewers, vintners and restaurateurs. Problem-solving, innovation and critical thinking skills are essential to every facet of our growing food and agriculture economy...from farm to fork.

Earlier this year, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature added flexibility to the Michigan Merit Curriculum offering Michigan kids an opportunity to explore job prospects in food and agriculture through participation in career and technical education programs while maintaining important learning objectives. Now, career and technical education programs can incorporate the benchmarks of Algebra II to fulfill the Algebra II requirements; and, anatomy and agri-science were added as options for the science requirements.

With less than two percent of our population directly tied to production agriculture, we need opportunities to introduce young people to the food and agriculture sector. These changes to the high school curriculum requirements help provide that link.

Parents are given an awesome responsibility to guide their children as they grow into adults. Consider encouraging your child to explore opportunities in Michigan's growing food and agriculture sector be it through a four year college degree, skilled trades program or career and technical education program. Michigan's \$96 billion a year food and agriculture sector provides important career paths, so kids continue to have a bright future in our great state.



## Need to get pesticide applicator certification, or renew?

MSU Extension is collaborating with the MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to offer last-minute study sessions for people planning to take state exams for private or commercial pesticide applicator certification. A 4-hour study session, consisting mostly of practice exam questions, will be held immediately before the testing time on 3 different dates and locations. Past participants have found the review session helpful to refresh their memory about the material and help them pass the exams. 4 recertification credits are available for each review session. The review session is not a substitute for studying the core manual. It is strongly suggested that participants acquire copies of the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual and study it thoroughly before the exam. If seeking commercial certification or re-certification, the study manual for the category(s) desired should also be acquired and studied. This program will cover only 'core' manual material, no commercial categories.

What will this cost?... The review session, conducted by MSU Extension, will cost \$10, cash or check payable to 'MSU Extension', at the door. This fee will cover refreshments, materials, and MSUE staff costs. If you plan to take a state exam, be prepared to pay an additional \$50 for the private certification fee, or \$75 for the commercial certification fee, by check or money order made payable to 'State of Michigan'. A waiver from the State of Michigan is offered to honorably discharged veterans seeking private pesticide applicator certification. You must provide a copy of your veteran's federal form DD-214 that indicates honorable discharge status along with your application.

You are not required to attend the review session to take the exam.

Lunch will not be provided. A 1/2 hour break is scheduled between the review and the exams for participants to have lunch. If taking an exam, bring your own lunch, or plan for a very quick lunch break.

### Friday, December 5, 2014

MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center, Chatham, MI  
Core manual review: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm eastern time  
State exams: 1:30 pm eastern time

### Tuesday, January 27, 2015

State Office Building, large conference room  
305 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI  
Core manual review: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm eastern time  
State exams: 1:00 pm eastern time

### Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Menominee County MSU Extension Office  
904 South US 41, Stephenson, MI  
Core manual review: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm central time  
State exams: 1:00 pm central time

Please register for the core manual review sessions by contacting Jim Isleib, MSU Extension at 906-387-2530 or [isleibi@anr.msu.edu](mailto:isleibi@anr.msu.edu). Please register for the state exams at [www.michigan.gov/pestexam](http://www.michigan.gov/pestexam). If you have questions about the certification process, contact David White, MDARD Pesticide and Plant Pest Management inspector at 906-250-3554 or [whited@michigan.gov](mailto:whited@michigan.gov).



## Farm Bill compliance dates announced

**2014 Farm Bill safety net programs have several compliance dates now being announced by the USDA FSA that farm landowners and tenant operators need to know.**

Posted on **October 10, 2014** by **Dennis Stein**, Michigan State University Extension

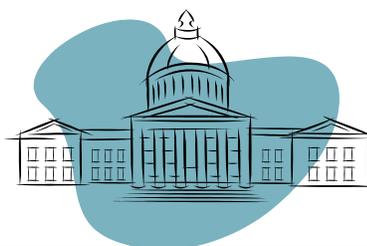
The USDA announced key dates for farm owners and producers to keep in mind regarding the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). These new programs, designed to help producers better manage risk, will usher in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades. Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- **Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015:** Land owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- **Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015:** Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- **Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015:** Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- **October 2015:** Payments for 2014 crop year, if needed. USDA leaders will visit with producers across the country to share information and answer questions on the ARC and PLC programs.

The Michigan State University Extension Farm Information Resource Management (FIRM) work group has a team of field educators gearing up to provide numerous face to face meetings for farm producers and landowners to help them gain an understanding of the options available to them under the new Farm Bill programs. A website containing resources is available and informational events are being scheduled that will help farmers learn more about how the programs will affect them. The USDA helped create online tools to assist farm owners and producers in the decision process. They allow farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time.

Commodities covered in the new programs include barley, canola, corn, grain sorghum, oats, rapeseed, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Producers can contact their local FSA office for more information or to schedule an appointment.

For additional information and links to Farm Bill resources, you can visit the Michigan State University Extension's FIRM web page. This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call (888-678-3464).



## November 2014 - FSA News

### FALL CERTIFICATION DEADLINE – NOVEMBER 15, 2014

Producers take notice – All Perennial Forage (Hay and Pasture), Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains need to be certified for the 2015 growing season by November 15, 2014.

### ATTENTION PRODUCERS!! - 2014 Production Due

Your 2013 production is needed!! All field visits and crop appraisals need to be completed as soon as possible. Turn your production into the FSA office.

### MARGIN PROTECTION PROGRAM – MPP – DEADLINE NOVEMBER 28, 2014

Milk Producers your 3 year milk production history for 2011, 2012, 2013 is needed in your local FSA office as soon as possible. MPP-Dairy offers protection to dairy producers when the difference (the margin) between the all-milk price and national average feed cost falls below a certain producer selected amount.

Eligible producers may purchase coverage for their dairy operation by paying an annual administrative fee of \$100 and a premium, as applicable, for higher levels of coverage. Producers in the dairy operation will have to select a desired coverage level ranging from \$4.00 to \$8.00, in \$0.50 increments and a desired coverage percentage level ranging from 25 to 90 percent, in 5 percent increments. Producers will also have to decide whether or not to participate in the MPP-Dairy Program or the Livestock Gross Margin program administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA), but they will not be allowed to participate in both. A decision tool is available at [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/pages/content/farmBill/fb\\_MPPDTool.jsp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/pages/content/farmBill/fb_MPPDTool.jsp) to help producers make coverage level decisions. Registration is currently underway for 2014 and 2015 and will continue until November 28, 2014.

### COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups. County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 3, 2014. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center is Dec. 1, 2014.

### NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) INSURANCE DEADLINES

Has a natural disaster like drought, excessive rain, or high winds caused crop losses or prevented planting? Did this impact your bottom line? Crops not insurable under Risk Management Agency CAT Crop Insurance are covered under NAP and can be purchased for \$250 per crop and a maximum of \$750 per county!

To qualify for administrative service fee waiver, a limited resource producer must have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50% of the county median household in both the previous 2 years. Limited resource producer status can be determined using a web site available through the Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self Determination Tool through the National Resource and Conservation Service at [www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tols.asp](http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tols.asp).

Please note that limited resource producers are required to recertify limited resource producer status annually.

### THE NEXT DEADLINE for purchasing your 2015 policy is:

November 20, 2013 – Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Raspberries, Grapes & Strawberries  
December 1, 2014 - Honey & Maple Sap

### SODBUSTER REGULATIONS

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production.

### CHANGE IN FARMING OPERATION

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate. **REMEMBER: If you carry NAP, all changes in farming operations must be made before filing a Notice of Loss.**

### HAY NET

Do you have hay for sale or are you looking for hay? If yes, then Hay Net could be for you. Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website ([www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet)). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

### SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact a local FSA office.

### GREAT INTEREST RATES: Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) Remember: these loans are now available for Hay/Forage Storage as well as traditional grain storage!

October Interest Rates:

2.125 percent for 7 years with a loan of \$100,000 or less  
2.500 percent for 10 years with a loan of \$100,000 - \$250,000  
2.625 percent for 12 years with a loan of \$250,000 - \$500,000

Contact your local FSA county office for November's interest rates

## As Michigan hay supplies grow, the Michigan Hay Sellers List stands ready

### Whether buying or selling hay, the Michigan Hay Sellers List makes the task easier

Posted on **October 2, 2014** by **Jerry Lindquist**, Michigan State University Extension

Anyone seeking hay to buy can go to The Michigan Hay Sellers List and search for the specific hay and bale type they desire.

For over 21 years, the Michigan Hay Sellers List has been bringing buyers and sellers of hay together. Much of Michigan received ample rainfall in the growing season of 2014 and hay yields rebounded substantially from the previous two dry summers. As the hay harvest season comes to a close, it does appear there will be surplus supplies of some types of hay. Hay marketing will become more challenging than it has been over the last few years as a result.

The high quality alfalfa hays that did not get rained on will be one of the few hay types that will still be in short supply this year. The summer harvest season was plagued with not enough sunny hay drying days in 2014. For much of Michigan, first cutting in June was delayed by wet weather, followed by overcast days in much of July and August. A lot of hay that was intended for dry hay in mid-summer was rained on and eventually harvested as haylage, balage or made into a low-quality, weathered baled hay. High quality dry alfalfa hays that were successfully harvested without rain or delay are still running \$180 - \$250 per ton when they can be found. Also, horse hays in small square bales that are mold and dust free are still hard to find and are bringing from \$175 - \$310 per ton depending upon location in Michigan.

According to Michigan State University Extension forage team members, there seems to be good supplies of most other types of hays and prices have fallen dramatically from the past few years. We again are seeing large price spreads between low quality and high quality hays. During the dry years any type of hay, regardless of quality, was bringing a premium price, whereas now only quality hay is bringing that higher price.

First cutting hays that have some grass in them, are late harvested/over mature, and maybe got rained on are in abundance this year. These hays are often testing below 10 percent crude protein in many instances and are priced below \$100 per ton, with some selling as low as \$65 - \$80 per ton in round bale form. The large harvest of these types of hay along with the falling grain prices is putting downward pressure on these low quality hays.

Each year over \$1 million of hay is listed for sale on the Michigan Hay Seller's List. To find alfalfa and or timothy small squared baled hay that is dust free within fifty miles of home, or that premium quality alfalfa second cutting in big square bales for under \$240 per ton, the list makes the hunt much easier.

Anyone seeking hay to buy can go to The Michigan Hay Sellers List and search for the specific hay they desire whether it be high quality alfalfa, mixed hay, horse quality timothy or even birdsfoot trefoil. They can simultaneously search for bale type such as small squares, big squares or round bales. They can also select which cutting is desired, be it first, second, third or maybe others. The search will generate the list of producers that have hay of these specific parameters for sale, the location of the hay and the asking price for the hay.

Anyone wishing to list hay for sale can go to the same website. Just follow the directions and go to the "help" icon at the top of the entry page if more clarification is needed.

All asking prices are listed on a per ton basis. This is done to be sure that transactions are made on a fair, standard basis. There is no charge for buyers or sellers. To keep the listings current, each listing is posted for only four months. For more information contact me at 231-832-6139 [lindquis@anr.msu.edu](mailto:lindquis@anr.msu.edu) or Phil Kaatz, at (810) 667-0341 or at [kaatz@anr.msu.edu](mailto:kaatz@anr.msu.edu). The Hay Sellers List is sponsored by MSU Extension with support from the Michigan Forage Council, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Michigan Farm Bureau.

This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, call (888-678-3464).



### Extending the Grazing Season Field Day

CONTACT: Misty Klotz, Kellogg Biological Station, 269-671-2402, [klotzmis@msu.edu](mailto:klotzmis@msu.edu)

EAST LANSING, Mich. - The Michigan Biological Station Kellogg Farm is hosting a field day, "Extending the Grazing Season," from 1 to 5 p.m. Nov. 7. The event will give farmers, consultants and educators an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences and discuss efficient planning and management strategies.

In the field and the classroom, participants will learn about the economics and environmental value of various forage crops, along with varying approaches to extending the grazing season and opportunities for grazing multispecies cover crop mixes.

Field day speakers will be:

Jerry Lindquist, Michigan State University Extension grazing and crop management educator, who will speak on the economic benefits of extending the grazing season, how to manage multispecies cover crop mixes and the advantages of winter bale grazing.

Santiago Utsumi, assistant professor of animal science, who will lead a field tour and discuss opportunities and challenges in using high-yielding forage rape varieties as a single or double crop in pasture-based systems.

Brook Wilke, Kellogg Farm manager, who will discuss the Kellogg Farm seeding and harvest rotations for the 2014 and 2015 growing seasons.

Preregistration is required by Nov. 5. The event will be held outside, dress for the weather. There is no fee to attend. To register, contact Misty Klotz at [klotzmis@msu.edu](mailto:klotzmis@msu.edu) or 269-671-2402. To learn more about the KBS Pasture Dairy and other events, visit [pasturedairy.kbs.msu.edu](http://pasturedairy.kbs.msu.edu)

# Will my alfalfa survive the coming winter?

**Stress on the plants influences the long-term survival of alfalfa stands.**

Posted on **October 24, 2014** by **Phil Kaatz**, Michigan State University Extension

Crown rot has severely limited the crown buds on this alfalfa plant which can be expected to winterkill.

During the 2014 growing season, much of Michigan had cooler and wetter weather, preventing many alfalfa producers from being able to harvest high quality dry alfalfa hay on a timely basis. Michigan alfalfa fields responded to the increased water availability to give good yields, but there was also a reduction in quality. Timing of cuttings was inconsistent and many producers took advantage of any sunny and dry conditions to insure the crop was harvested.

Couple the wet summer with all the challenges associated with last winter and many producers are asking themselves what should we expect for the coming year? How will my alfalfa stands survive if we have another tough winter? To answer this, it is important for producers to assess the health of the stand to help anticipate which fields are likely to suffer yield loss due to winterkill.

Recently, I had a chance to assess plant health in two alfalfa stands I have been following since early spring when they showed significant delays when breaking dormancy. Samples from each field were dug and sent to Michigan State University Diagnostic Services to be evaluated for disease. *Fusarium* and *Rhizoctonia* were isolated from the crowns of the alfalfa samples. These pathogens are part of the alfalfa crown rot complex that is found in nearly every alfalfa field and is a major factor limiting the persistence of alfalfa stands. The older the stand, the more crown rot typically occurs. These pathogens may infect plants months or years before crown rot develops, and isolation of these pathogens from plants will not necessarily mean that roots will develop crown rot.



One of the monitored alfalfa fields in Sanilac County showing differences in growth in spring (right) and this fall (left). Research shows that environmental stresses can predispose alfalfa to root and crown rot. Environmental stress can include poor fertility, low soil pH, harvesting too often or too late in the season, grazing or wheel traffic that damages the crowns, excessive drought, flooding, insect attack or winter injury. Anything that depletes root carbohydrate reserves can be a predisposing factor. So, with an increase of stresses on alfalfa plants, the opportunity for secondary infections by crown rot diseases increases. There are no varieties currently available that have resistance to crown rot; however, choosing varieties that have a high degree of resistance to multiple diseases is recommended.



Alfalfa plants showing the variation of fall plant growth due to crown rot or possibly normal thinning of weaker plants.

Each of the two fields I am monitoring yielded well and provided at least average tonnage. When plants were dug this fall, most roots were firm, off-white and had few signs of discoloration. Expectations are for excellent winter survival. Using the rating system 0 to 5, where 0 is best and 5 is worst, I would have given most roots a rating of 1 based on the University of Wisconsin Bulletin A3620, "Alfalfa stand assessment: Is this stand good enough to keep?" It is likely many plants that showed significant signs of crown rot this past spring subsequently died during the summer growing season. In low areas of the fields where drainage is less than ideal, many plants still show injury to root crowns and are rated a 2-3 for injury. These plants will probably not survive the winter.



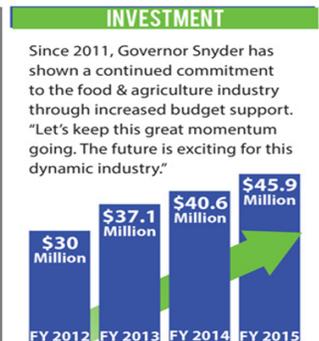
Split stems showing incidence of crown and stem rot. For more information, contact **Phil Kaatz** with Michigan State University Extension at 810-667-0341 or [kaatz@msu.edu](mailto:kaatz@msu.edu).

### References

- Alfalfa Root and Crown Rot Complex, Kansas State University Extension
  - Root and Crown Rots and Virus Diseases of Alfalfa and Clover, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
  - Rhizoctonia Root, Stem, and Crown Rot of Alfalfa, Ohio State University Extension
  - Alfalfa stand assessment: Is this stand good enough to keep?, University of Wisconsin Extension
- This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, call (888-678-3464).

## MICHIGAN FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Michigan's food and agriculture system has not only met its \$100 billion goal, but has surpassed it. According to the Michigan State University Product Center, Michigan's agri-food system has reached a total economic impact of **\$101.2 billion**.



### VALUE ADDED ACTIVITIES

Processing, wholesaling and retailing saw a **8.5%** increase, underscoring Michigan is ripe with food and agriculture based business opportunity. Overall, the total food and agriculture industry has grown at a compound annual growth rate of **3.04%**.

\*According to an interim estimate from the Michigan State University (MSU) Product Center

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**\*\*\*If you do not wish to receive this publication, please contact the Ontonagon County MSUE office at 906-884-4386.**

## Meetings & Events Calendar

### November

November 2 Daylight Saving time ends.  
November 4 Together at the Table — LSSU Cisler Center, Sault Ste. Marie

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November 5-6 MSU Fall Conference — Kellogg Center  
November 5 Together at the Table, — NMU University Center, Marquette  
November 6 Together at the Table — MTU Memorial Union, Houghton  
November 6 Clare County Livestock, 1:00 pm Clare, Michigan  
November 7 The Michigan Biological Station Kellogg Farm is hosting a  
field day, “Extending the Grazing Season,” 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
November 27 Happy Thanksgiving

### December

December 4 Clare County Livestock Sale, 1:00 pm Clare Michigan  
December 5 Dairy MPP Ed Program—5 Teleconferences across the  
UP—see page 2 for information.  
December 5 Pesticide applicator Review and Exam at the Upper  
Peninsula Research and Extension Center, Chatham, MI  
see page 3 for more information  
December 25 Christmas

### January

January 1 Happy New Year  
January 27 Pesticide applicator Review and Exam at State Office Bldg,  
Escanaba, MI see page 3 for more information

### U.P. Agriculture Connection

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