



UP Ag Connections

725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953

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Published Monthly

NEWS & VIEWS

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

My daughter called me “jinky” the other day. I don’t even know what jinky means, but I was pretty sure it wasn’t a compliment; it wasn’t an insult either, but rather a statement of fact. She said it’s partly impressive, that I can be hauling cattle at dark and have the trailer lights go out and a half hour later we’re rolling again. Of course the plug was pulled apart and wires twisted together direct, but it worked and we got home with lights. I painted the bottom half of my rusty pick up with rubberized bed paint. The list is long, I’m jinky.

I tell that story to discuss farm safety. Farming is a dangerous job. Without taking the time to find the statistics, it is safe to say that farming is one of the most dangerous occupations in the country. It’s hard work with lots of manual labor. Farmers work long, tired hours with powerful machinery. Mistakes can be catastrophic.

Many of us use farming to teach our children life’s lessons. After spending another week at the fair, it’s refreshing to watch this life’s lessons learning process at work. . If you are like me, you give great responsibility to teenagers and even younger. Some of these responsibilities place our children at risk.

My daughter was mowing hay earlier this year while I was observed from the end of the field. The mower plugged. I saw her back up the machine to dislodge the plug. Soon she was on the ground walking around the mower. I started yelling frantically to get away, which she did. I drove across the field at an unsafe speed to hear the tractor wasn’t running. She had done everything right! Tried to clear the jammed hay from the tractor seat and when that didn’t work she shut off the mower and then the tractor. Our rule is that they don’t leave that seat until the tractor is shut off.

I have an old roller mill we use to roll oats for the show heifers. It rolls oats better than any other machine I have ever seen. The oats come out perfect. Unfortunately the augers are worn out and removed. It runs from the PTO and has an exposed auger coming out the back. It’s “jinky.” I dump the oats in with a bucket and scoop rolled oats from the back. If everyone follows the rules, we’re all safe. I was dumping oats when I saw my daughter start to put a sack around the end of the auger. OMG! She then listened to the story again about my best friend, that a PTO shaft snapped his arm in three places. She listened to the list of farmers that she and I both know that have lost limbs to augers. She listened me talk about never breaking safety rules.

Table of Contents

- 2 .. **Market Price**
- .. **For Sale/Wanted**
- .. **Alternative Forage Options**
- 3 .. **Winter Wheat Trial**
- 4 .. **Managing fields after Wheat harvest**
- 5 .. **Log Cabin Livestock**
- 6 .. **FSA News**
- 7 .. **Sponsors**
- 8 .. **Calendar**

On the day before we left for the U.P. State Fair, my barn burnt down. I had just came back home from taking the fair cattle to Escanaba and was cleaning the barn with the skid loader so I could put more hay into storage before we were going to finish packing the next load. I think the exhaust started the fire. Stupid carelessness. I hope everyone that so graciously gave their condolences weren’t put off by my No-Big-Deal attitude. It’s part of my hockey coaching mentality. We don’t have time to worry about past mistakes. It’s hard to score the next goal if we’re still fretting about the one we just let up. That’s what I told my crying daughter that had heard the saying on the ice many times before.

I was fortunate that the stupid carelessness just destroyed some steel, lumber, hay and ego. No people or livestock were hurt. My “don’t worry about the past attitude” would be so different if someone would have been injured or worse. My point for this article is simple. We all have differing operations and personalities. Let’s be constantly diligent to keep ourselves and those around us, Safe!

~Frank

MARKET REPORT (8/26/13)

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Market Ready Prices

Choice Steers	\$113 - \$128	per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$105 - \$118	per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$66 - \$73	per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$100 - \$120	per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$70 - \$80	per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$70 - \$100	per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$120 - \$170	per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1200 - 1800	per head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1400 - 1775	per head

Feed Prices across the U.P. (8/19/2013)

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$18.15	\$363.00	\$290-436
Soymeal	\$32.53	\$650.50	\$500-801
Oats	\$18.98	\$380.00	\$255-504
Barley	\$15.40	\$308.00	\$220-396

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.

For Sale: Shetland Sheep wether lambs \$75. Raw Shetland Fleece coded & skirted \$16/lb. Call 906-241-8855

For Sale: 4X5 Net Wrapped bales of mixed hay \$50.00 a bale, trucking available. Call 906-647-7971

For Sale Call 906-438-2381
- 1st Crop Alfalfa—New Seeding 4X5 Net wrapped in Plastic (No Rain) \$75 each.
- 1st Crop Grass/Alfalfa Mix 4X5 Net Wrapped Stored Inside (No Rain) \$65 each.
- 2nd Crop Alfalfa 4X5 Net Wrapped Very Nice Quality (No Rain) \$75 each.
- Small square bales Timothy/Orchard Grass \$4.25 each
- Farm Raised Chicken Whole \$2.50/lb. and Qtr. \$2.75/lb.
All Vacuum sealed and frozen. Birds Range from 4-8 lb.

FREE - Spent Grains -Keweenaw Brewing Co. 18% CP 80% Moisture South Range, MI Call Paul 906-281-1123

Looking for a past edition of the newsletter?
Check out www.maes.msu.edu/upes

Alternative forage options for cattle

Posted on August 26, 2013 by Dennis Stein, Michigan State University Extension

Finding reasonably priced feed and forages has been a full-time job following the struggles of winter 2013. [Michigan State University Extension](http://www.maes.msu.edu) recommends that farms feeding cattle and cows need to take inventory of on-hand forage supplies now. By knowing what you currently have, a plan can be developed to secure the remaining feed and forages needed to carry the livestock operation through to next year's crop. Late spring and summer 2013 have presented several challenges from too wet to too dry and too hot to too cool leaving many farms wondering about the potential of late planted corn failing to make maturity before a killing frost. This situation creates an opportunity for crop farms to consider selling their field corn as silage now rather than rolling the dice in hopes that a perfect fall will allow the corn to mature. If they miss silage harvest and there is a frost before the corn matures, farmers may want to sell earlage rather than trying to harvest immature high moisture corn.

As we recover from one of the smallest hay inventories in recent history, farms are forced to pay higher forage prices. The 2013 hay growing season has been good for most of the Saginaw Valley with some farms being able to refill some very empty hay barns, but we are not out of woods just yet. Harvest time prices for hay continue to be paid at prices above long term trend levels on the limited supply of hay grown this summer. As hay acres continue to shrink and yields decrease over time, hay supplies will likely remain at risk for the next few years. Livestock farms should have a plan of action to insure reasonable supplies of forages for the fall of 2013 through the winter of 2014. A good first step is to build a feed and forage need budget to estimate feed needs for your farm. Once you have a reasonable feed needs budget estimate then you can calculate any additional needs to quickly identify and secure potential sources of forage or feed alternatives that would work for your farm's livestock needs.

The 2013 corn silage harvest will soon begin, which will represent the harvest and storage of the farm's major forage source for the next twelve months. Even with the reduction in corn grain market prices some farms may find the opportunity to purchase some late planted corn as a more economical source of corn silage than what they grow. Fields of late planted corn may be something that livestock farms can purchase from crop producers who are looking to reduce risk if these fields do not mature before this year's killing frost. In some cases farms may have planted beyond the crop insurance planting date requirements leaving these fields exposed to a huge risk. Farms considering the purchase of immature fields of corn may want to review *Pricing Immature Corn*, developed by Michigan State University Extension. This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](http://www.maes.msu.edu). 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-MSUE4MI.

**Michigan Winter Wheat Variety Trial 2013
Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center
Chatham, MI**

Variety	Moisture	Test wt (lbs/bu)	Bu/acre*	Grain	Market
Jupiter	12.7	50.8	43.3	White	MCIA**
Kaskaskia	13.5	55.4	36.8	Red	WCIA**
MCIA Blazer	13.2	55.5	41.9	Red	MCIA
Pro 200	13.0	54.1	40.8	Red	Pro Seed Genetics
Pro 220	13.1	58.4	41.9	Red	Pro Seed Genetics
Pro 260	12.9	53.9	39.3	Red	Pro Seed Genetics
Pro 320A	13.6	55.0	35.8	Red	Pro Seed Genetics
Red Devil	13.2	55.8	51.7	Red	MCIA, WCIA
Red Dragon	13.0	54.8	50.3	Red	MCIA
Red Ruby	13.2	53.3	42.9	Red	MCIA
Sunburst	13.7	56.1	47.9	Red	MCIA, WCIA
PIP 729	12.9	57.1	56.4	Red	Partners Producti
PIP 740	13.0	55.3	47.9	Red	Partners Producti
PIP 752	13.3	55.2	52.2	Red	Partners Producti
PIP 761	13.7	55.2	57.6	Red	Partners Producti
PIP 792	13.3	57.5	61.9	Red	Partners Producti
Mean	13.2	55.2	46.8		
CV%	3.6	2.9	11.2		
LSD 5%	0.7	2.3	7.5		

Winter Wheat Performance Trial 2013

C. Kapp, A. McFarland, K. Cassida
Upper Peninsula Research and Extension
Center Michigan State University

Introduction

This past year the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center conducted a soft red/white winter wheat variety trial. The purpose of this trial was to evaluate varieties to determine which consistently performs the best in the soil and climatic conditions of the Upper Peninsula. Yield is the single largest determinant of return per acre for wheat production. Selecting varieties with high yield potential is fundamental to obtaining high yields and economic profitability. Yield varies from year to year as a result of several environmental factors such as soil type, amount of rainfall, temperature, disease and insect incidence.

Methods

The results shown are the average of four replications grown in close proximity to each other. Two or more plots of the same variety in the same field may produce somewhat different results because of variability in the soil and other environmental factors. Replication and randomization of the entries are two methods used to account for this variation. The value calculated as the least significant difference (LSD) is the amount that an individual hybrid would have to differ from another hybrid in the same test to be considered significantly different from that hybrid. The coefficient of variation (CV) is indicative of a trial's precision. Trials with low levels of error variation have lower CV values.

Comments on the 2012-2013 growing season

This trial faced a number of crop related stresses that lead to a decrease in yield. Due to later planting, the crop experienced poorer tiller development than normal. It was then under snow cover for six months. This led to an increased incidence of pink snow mold within the plot. The plants that did survive were much weaker and did not tiller as profusely. Cool temperatures after snow melt also caused the wheat to break dormancy later than usual, which forced the crop to develop quickly. Temperature fluctuations within the growing season also played a large role on crop development, test weight and yield. For any further questions about this trial, please call Chris Kapp at 906-439-5188 ext 6.

*Yield adjusted to 13.5% moisture **Michigan Crop Improvement, ** Wisconsin Crop Improvement Association
Design: RCB, plot size 3 X 18', (3X16" harvested) Soil type: Eben very cobbly sandy loam
Herbicide: 15 oz/ac of Huskie at feekes stage 6 Fertility (Fall): 200 lbs/ac 12-24-24 at planting
Fertility (Spring): 150 lbs/ac 44-0-0(ESN) at greenup Seeded: 9-24-12(150 lbs/acre) Harvested: 8/15/2013

Managing fields after wheat harvest

Posted on **July 25, 2013** by **Marilyn Thelen**, Michigan State University Extension

With wheat harvest in Michigan coming to a close, nearly 500,000 acres of ground opened up. Leaving these fields idle until next spring may not be the best option. This article will discuss several ways farmer can utilize these acres to benefit their farming system.

Manure application

Wheat stubble provides a mid-season land base for manure application. However, applying manure in the summer increases the risk of losing manure nutrients. Hot weather and surface application of manure increases the risk of losing ammonium-N. "[Manure Application Method and Timing Effects on Emission of Ammonia and Nitrous Oxide](#)," a June 2013 [eXtension](#) publication, reported that with surface application of liquid dairy manure, 30 to 50 pounds per acre of Ammonia-N was lost within the first six to 12 hours after application. This represented 46 to 77 percent of the ammonia fraction. This loss was reduced 60 to 80 percent with immediate incorporation and over 90 percent with injection of manure. In addition to preserving nitrogen, this practice also decreases odor which can be a greater concern in the summer as neighbors' may spend more time outside or have open windows. In addition to nitrogen, manure is a good source of phosphorous and potassium. The long-time period between July and May increases the risk of nutrients being lost before another crop can use them. Cover crops and incorporation of manure are two practices that can work in concert to reduce runoff, leaching and volatilization of nutrients, all routes that nutrients take to leave the root zone.

Cover crops

Cover crops after wheat provide a growing crop to support soil organism, trap nutrients and reduce erosion. In fact, wheat is a good crop to follow with cover crops as it provides a longer growing period for cover crops to establish. If you are looking for a cover crop that will winter-kill, some choices are oats, oilseed radish, sorghum-sudangrass or oats and oilseed radish seeded together. In addition to being terminated by freezing temperatures, oilseed radish and sorghum-sudangrass are excellent nitrogen scavengers and soil builders. Either would be a good choice to follow a manure application. All three provide protection against soil erosion.

Cover crops that will overwinter provide lasting residue and growth both above and below ground into the following spring are cereal rye, annual ryegrass and winter triticale. The concerns with these are they will need to be terminated in the spring and, as a result, can be more difficult to manage.

If manure is being applied to the wheat stubble, cover crop seed can be drilled, or we have seen good cereal rye stands when seed is spread after the manure application and incorporated with shallow vertical tillage or is slurry seeded with the manure. The picture shows a cereal rye stand just two and a half weeks after planted during a field demonstration using slurry seeding or vertical tillage to incorporate the manure and seed. Both slurry seeding with an incorporation attachment or shallow incorporation with a low disturbance tillage tool can reduce ammonia emission, however emissions may not be reduced as much as it would with a more aggressive incorporation method.

For additional information on cover crops, see the [Michigan State University Extension](#) article "[Cover crop choices following winter wheat](#)."

Alternative forages

There are several cover crops that can provide a harvestable crop. If forage is short, consider a cover crop that can be grazed or harvested. Sorghum-sudangrass, oats, cereal rye, annual ryegrass and winter triticale all have forage value.

It is not recommended to leave the wheat ground idle from July to the following April. Growing crops provide a food source for soil organisms as well as trap any nutrients in the root profile for use in future crops. Idle ground can also be a place where weeds can establish, grow and produce seed, creating problems for the next crops.

Look at wheat ground as an opportunity to improve that field for the future.

For more information:

[Cover crop choices following winter wheat](#)

[Manure Application Method and Timing Effects on Emission of Ammonia and Nitrous Oxide](#)

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-MSUE4MI .

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Log Cabin Livestock Farm Day Healthy Soil, Multi-Species Grazing & Effective Water Systems

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2013

Location: Log Cabin Livestock Farm, Traunik, MI

Our Log Cabin Livestock Farm day is part of HMI's new Open Gate On-Farm Learning Series. Open Gate is an action-based approach to learning. At the Log Cabin Livestock Farm Day you'll see how fellow Michigander land managers are positively impacting pasture productivity and soil health through multi-species grazing. You'll learn....

- How planned grazing positively impacts soil health
- Simple techniques to monitor soil health and pasture productivity
- Livestock watering options and how to develop simple and easy watering systems
- How the Log Cabin Livestock Farm benefits from grazing management
- How Holistic Management enables producers to better manage risk, make better decisions and enjoy the benefits of sustainable agriculture.

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You - and the group - have the opportunity to identify common problems and discuss common solutions in a friendly atmosphere. With experienced facilitators and producers on hand, the goal of the day is to identify and solve a current problem - and to create a forum for sharing practices, ideas, advice, and solutions to that problem.

The process: small groups of people come together to work on something that is real and current, and each person gets individual time from the others. When you leave at the end of the day, you'll take away practical ideas on how you can increase profit, production and performance for a sustainable ranch operation.

Join farmers and resource managers from around Michigan for this action-based learning day- and take home some new tips and ideas you can put to use.

Space is limited, so be sure to register in advance
Advance Registration

\$20.00 per person

\$30.00 per couple
(includes lunch)

Same Day Registration

\$25.00 per person

\$40.00 per couple
(includes lunch)

Register online at holisticmanagement.org/logcabin or contact Carrie Nelson, (505) 842-5252 or call Ben at 906-439-5210 for more information.

Agenda, All times are Eastern Daylight

9:30 Arrival & Registration

10:30 Introductions Orientation - Frank Aragona

10:45 The Value of Holistic Management to Log Cabin Livestock - Ben & Denise Bartlett

11:00 Introduction to Effective Biological Monitoring and Soil Health Analysis Techniques, presentation and small group exercises - Ben & B J Bartlett

12:15 Lunch

1:30 Water Infrastructure Design Demonstration to Improve Grazing Implementation presentation and Q&A - Ben Bartlett

2:15 Forage Assessment Small Group Exercise - Ben Bartlett

3:15 Group Work to Solve Individual Farm Issues Participants are Facing & Group Discussion of Lessons Learned - Frank Aragona

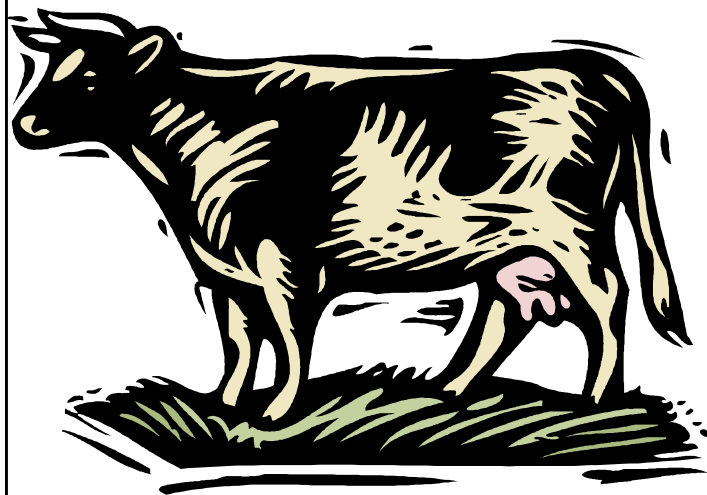
4:00 Evaluation and Closing

Speakers

- Ben & Denise Bartlett, Owners Log Cabin Livestock Farm
- B J Bartlett, Director of Agricultural Operations, Algonquin Farms
- Frank Aragona, Programs Director, HMI

Thanks

Our Open Gate On-Farm Learning series is partially funded by a grant from the CHS Foundation.



September 2013 - FSA News

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

THE DEADLINE for purchasing your 2014 policies are as follows:

August 30, 2013: Aquaculture, Nursery Crops, Christmas Trees, & Grass Sod

September 30, 2013: Mixed Hay, Alfalfa, Pasture, Rye, Seed Crops, & Fall Speltz

November 20, 2013: Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Raspberries, & Strawberries

December 1, 2013: Honey & Maple Sap

March 15, 2014: Peas, Oats/Barley for Forage, Sorghum, Beans, Potatoes, Triticale, Vegetable Crops, & Corn in some counties.

If you grow a crop not listed here – call your local FSA Service Center. Keep in mind that some of these crops are covered by Federal Crop Insurance in certain U.P. countries. In counties where alfalfa and mixed forage (AGM) are covered by crop insurance, FSA cannot sell a NAP policy for these types of forage when the seedings are older than 6 years. Crops determined not insurable and not eligible for NAP do not need to meet Risk Management Purchase Requirement.

REMEMBER – Without insurance you are **NOT** eligible for National Disaster Programs!

ATTENTION PRODUCERS!

Your 2013 production is needed. As you complete harvesting for the 2013 growing season, be sure to turn your production into your local FSA Service Center.

FALL CERTIFICATION DEADLINE – NOVEMBER 15, 2013

Producers Take Notice – All Perennial Forage (Hay & Pasture), Fall Wheat, and other Fall-Seeded Small Grains need to be certified for the 2014 growing season by **NOVEMBER 15, 2013**.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

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.

FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of US agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in the real estate transaction are reminded to notify investors of these reporting requirements.

GREAT INTEREST RATES: Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Remember: these loans are now available for Hay/Forage Storage as well as traditional grain storage!

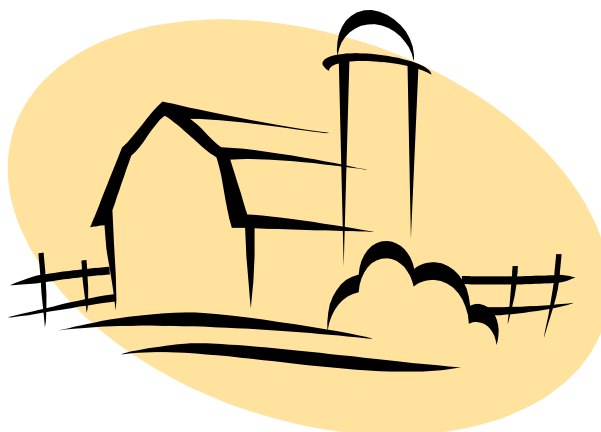
August Interest Rates:

2.000 percent for 7 years with a loan of \$100,000 or less

2.625 percent for 10 years with a loan of \$100,000 - \$250,000

2.750 percent for 12 years with a loan of \$250,000 - \$500,000

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



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SEPTEMBER

- 3 Beer and Cheese Tasting Doors open at 6:30pm Ore Dock for more info call Sarah at 906-225-0671 X23 or Anjila 906-250-06622
- 5 2013 Fall Feeder Cattle Sale—Clare, MI
- 7 Celebrating Tomatoes—Salsa Contest and Kids Tomato Squish Marquette Food Coop 10:00 am to 12:00 pm call Sarah 906-225-0671 X23
- 21 Log Cabin Livestock Farm Day, Traunik, MI Contact Carrie Nelson (505) 842-5252 or Ben Bartlett 906-439-5210

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