



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

March 2023

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 27 Issue 3

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News and Views

By Frank Wardynski, MSUE

One of the things I like about writing the “News and Views” piece, is that it allows me to offer opinion, not just science based info. We have been in a bit of a whirl wind in agriculture since Covid shutdowns started back in March of 2020. We saw markets act out of character with situations where livestock harvest facilities were shutdown to the point that they could not keep up with market ready livestock. At the same time, harvest numbers were down and product movement was limited to the point where we saw empty shelves in grocery stores. Supply and demand were all messed up. Farmers had no market outlet, while consumers could not get the food they wanted.

As we came out of lockdown, inflation ramped up. We went from using almost no fuel with low process to raging fuel prices. Still store shelves sat empty while goods sat on boats in the ocean for over a month waiting to be unloaded. Not enough trucks to move goods around the country.

During those times fertilizer and fuel prices close to doubled. National cost of agriculture production increased from 25-50%. Many commodity prices were already high or went that way soon. USDA data indicates that farm profitability as measured by net farm income was the highest ever in 2021 and 2022. That is expected to change as input prices refuse to lower. I suspect some of that profitability was from input pre-purchases. Buying fertilizer, seed, etc. to offset taxes before input prices started to inflate. That will not be the case in 2023. Input prices are already high. We will see where they go from here.

This is where my opinion starts to kick in. Depending on your news source, you may be getting varied predictions about our economic future regarding interest rates, inflation, disinflation, recession, and deflation. Some say we are in for a soft landing. I think a recession is coming. Along with that, probably deflation. From an input standpoint I certainly do hope we see deflation bring fertilizer, fuel, seed, and other inputs down. History would suggest that is going to be the case. I expect some commodity prices are going to have some downside pressure as consumer dollars get tighter.

I am in a quandary in my thoughts of what is going to happen with machinery costs. I can find historical data to support my belief that as we go through whatever economic cycle we go through that input prices will stabilize. I cannot find the same data to look at the machinery side of it. In the last 18 months, machinery and parts prices have increased from an index of 190 to 250. I cannot find that type of price increase going back to 1982. Consequently, I can not find data to indicate that those prices will lower back in line.

I went through those thoughts and opinions to talk about risk management. Not just commodity price risk but all prices. I do not have a good strategy for decreasing input costs, mostly because I still do not know if input prices have stabilized and are soon to go down or if inflation just took a break and is about to ramp up again. I do like to lock prices in, when possible, both buying and selling. But buying fertilizer last fall, only to see it drop prices by spring would make me pull my hair out. If you can project a profit at a certain price, lock it in.

What can I do with farm machinery? Buy now? Buy later? That’s probably a cash flow, income tax, balance sheet question. If you have been regularly purchasing equipment, cash flow is working and the balance sheet is both solvent and liquid, keep buying equipment. If not, maybe look to extend the life of current machinery and hope supply and demand comes back into check. If you ever want to talk about risk management, please give me a call.

2023 U.P. Food Summit to be held March 27

The U.P. Food Exchange (UPFE) is pleased to announce that registration is open for the 2023 U.P. Food Summit. The Summit will be held on Monday, March 27, 2023 from 10am-4pm at the Northern Center, on the campus of Northern Michigan University.

This event celebrates local food, highlights projects from around the Upper Peninsula, and provides networking opportunities. The keynote speakers are Roger LaBine, Water Resource Technician for the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Kathleen Smith, Manoomin Ganawandang or “She who takes care of the wild rice,” for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Kathleen and Roger will present findings on the impact of climate change on wild rice in the Great Lakes area.

Other presentations planned for the day include an overview of the U.P. wide Prescription for Health and farm-based cold storage grant program that was launched in 2022, training for food producers on schools as markets, and results of a food aggregation and distribution hub feasibility study. The day will include more than presentations – it is also built around opportunities to participate in interactive demonstrations, discussions, and local food story telling.

“Our local food system is something to be celebrated. This event gives people from different parts of the food system a chance to connect with each other. We want to think collectively about where we are now with local food in the UP, and what the future could look like,” says Rachael Pressley, Regional Planner at the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) and member of the UPFE Food Summit Planning Team.

This event, which includes lunch and refreshments, is free thanks to generous funding from the USDA Regional Food Systems Partnership Grant, or Food SPICE, Food Systems Partners Investing in Communities and Entrepreneurs, and MSU Center for Regional Food Systems. Preregistration is required, and can be done at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/UpperPeninsulaFoodSummit2023/>

Farmers, farmers market managers, food producers, or others in need of travel assistance to attend the event may contact Sarah at smonte@marquettefood.coop for more information.

You may learn more about the conference and the U.P. Food Exchange at www.upfoodexchange.com or www.facebook.com/upfoodexchange.

The U.P. Food Exchange is a local food network that coordinates and supports food activities across the U.P. Its mission is to broaden collaboration among communities for a mutually supportive food system in the Upper Peninsula.

2023 Pruning Workshops for Smart Gardeners

Two dates from which to choose:

Friday, March 31, 2023

12:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET

Friday, April 7, 2023

12:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET

Each online workshop will be presented VIA ZOOM

Cost: \$40.00 per participant

MASTER THE SCIENCE AND ART OF PRUNING!!!!!!

Pruning is an important cultural practice used to maintain health, safety, vigor and appearance of woody plants. It involves both art and science – art, in shaping plants in harmony with their growth habit to enhance the landscape, and science, in knowing how, when, where and why to prune for maximum benefit.

MSU Extension Senior Horticulture Educator, Rebecca Finneran will lead the interactive online Zoom workshops that are designed to help participants learn best practices for pruning and the proper equipment it takes for each job. You will be able to ask questions and interact with the instructor. And, prior to the workshop you have selected, you will have the option to submit photos for discussion and analysis, as time allows.

March 31st workshop: Registration deadline: March 29, 2023, or when the workshop is full.

April 7th workshop: Registration deadline: April 5, 2023, or when the workshop is full.

For more information and to register:

[Event Summary for 2023 Pruning Workshops for Smart Gardeners | ANR Events Management System \(msu.edu\)](#)



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MDARD In-Person Core Testing and Core Review

MDARD PPPMD and MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program are offering an in-person Core Manual review class followed by Core pesticide applicator certification testing. Fumigation and Aerial Standard tests will also be available.

PRIVATE CORE, FUMIGATION STANDARD, AERIAL STANDARD AND COMMERCIAL CORE TESTS ONLY.
NO COMMERCIAL CATEGORY TESTS.

ATTENDANCE FOR THE CORE REVIEW IS MANDATORY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IN-PERSON TESTING.

The 4-hour review covers all of the chapters of the National Pesticide Applicators Certification Core Manual. The review is held in the morning and the MDARD exams are given that afternoon. We recommend participants read and study the Core Manual before attending the review. Copies may be ordered from: <https://npsecstore.com/pages/michigan>. County Extension may also have copies available. Please call ahead for availability.

Check-in for the program is 7:30 to 8 a.m. The Core review class is from 8 a.m. to noon. MDARD will begin the testing session at approximately 12:30 p.m.

FEES and PAYMENT:

Fee for the Core review class is \$25.00. Payment is to Michigan State University. You can pay by credit card when checking out here, mail payment to the address on the confirmation/invoice, or bring payment with you to the session. Making payment at the session - checks are made payable to Michigan State University or MSU. Cash payment at the session is also accepted. Receipts will be sent to the email address provided with the registration.

Fee for applicator certification is paid to the STATE OF MICHIGAN. Commercial Applicator certification fee is \$75.00, Private Applicator fee is \$50.00 and Registered Applicator fee is \$45.00. Military Veterans - Private applicator certification fees are waived if a copy of their DD214 is provided. A check payable to "State of Michigan" is the only payment accepted for the applicator certification fee. Postage paid envelopes to send certification payment to MDARD are provided at the session. Cash or credit card payments are not accepted.

DATES and LOCATIONS:

March 7, 2023 - St. Clair County Building Auditorium, 200 Grand River Ave., Port Huron, MI 48060

March 17, 2023 - West Michigan Research Station, 5185 N. Oceana Dr., Hart, MI 49420

March 23, 2023 - MSU Southwest Michigan Center, 1791 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

March 29, 2023 - City of Marquette DPW Building, 1100 Wright St., Marquette, MI 49855

April 3, 2023 - Huron County Expo Center, 170 W Soper Rd., Bad Axe MI 48413

April 11, 2023 - Mid Michigan Community College, 1375 S. Clare Ave., Harrison, MI 48625

April 14, 2023 - Lenawee County Building, 1040 S. Winter St. Ste. 2020, Adrian, MI 49221

April 28, 2023 - MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane Rd., East Lansing, MI 48824

May 11, 2023 - MSU Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center, 3775 S. Reese Rd., Frankenmuth, MI 48734

May 25, 2023 - MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane Rd., East Lansing, MI 48824

June 16, 2023 - MSU Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center, 3775 S. Reese Rd., Frankenmuth, MI 48734

June 22, 2023 - MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane Rd., East Lansing, MI 48824

PARTICIPANTS MUST ATTEND THE CORE REVIEW AND THE TEST.

ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE FINAL!!! - NO REFUNDS OR DEFERRING TO OTHER LOCATIONS ARE ALLOWED.

No food or refreshments will be served. Time between review end and test beginning is short. It is recommended to bring a sack lunch. No recertification credits, RUP points or CCA credits are available from this program.

Online registration:

[Event Registration for MDARD In-Person Core Testing and Core Review | ANR Events Management System \(msu.edu\)](#)

Alger Conservation District 2023 Tree Sale Catalog



ALGER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

Order Deadline: Friday, April 14th

Pick-up dates and Times:

Saturday, May 6th

Munising Ice Arena, Munising, 9am-12noon

Superior Hardware, Grand Marais, 2pm-4pm

*Pick up dates & times may be subject to change. No early birds please!

We are online now and accept credit card payments directly. Visit the site below or scan this QR Code!



<https://alger-conservation-district.square.site/>



ALGER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 63RD ANNUAL MEETING



Thursday March 23rd, 2023

Gallery Coffee

Elm St., Munising, MI



Conservation Chat with Hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and cash bar.

Please stop in to hear short presentations from our amazing Staff and Partners!



4:30 Social Hour: Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

Mingle, meet the Board, Staff, Partners, and see what we've been up to this year.

See the current Tree Sale catalog, bird and bat houses, and other available merchandise for purchase.



5:30 Annual Meeting: Financials and Director elections

Followed by short presentations from our amazing Staff and Partners!



No charge to attend, donations are gladly accepted and appreciated!

Visit AlgerCD.com/upcoming-events or call 906-387-2222 with questions.



Market Report

Choice Steers	\$120-\$165 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$130-\$154 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$52-\$63 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$125-\$185 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$70-\$90 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$75-\$130 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$250-\$450 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows top \$1700/head

Grade Holstein bred heifers top \$1900/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$17.68	\$353.65	\$265-560
Soymeal	\$30.68	\$613.50	\$580-650
Oats	\$17.70	\$354.00	\$320-416
Barley	\$13.83	\$276.50	\$200-386
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

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MCA/MSU BULL EVALUATION

Open House.....Saturday, March 4th, 2023

Sale.....Saturday, March 18th, 2023



MIBulls.com

Remus, MI

Introductory Backyard Fruit Online Course

Visit our website for more information and to register:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/backyard-fruit-101>



Backyard Fruit 101

MSU Extension now has a completely online, self-paced, introductory course on **Backyard Fruit 101**. Learn how you can contribute to the Smart Gardening principles of creating healthy soils and plants, while enjoying the health benefits of growing and eating fresh fruit.


In this course, Consumer Horticulture Educators, Brent Crain, Rebecca Krans, David Lowenstein, and Nate Walton cover all the basics of growing backyard fruit.

It consists of six different units focusing on the following:

- Introduction to growing fruit
- Apples & pome fruits
- Strawberries and blueberries
- Brambles
- Grapes
- Unusual fruit

All aspects of fruit growing, such as getting started, soil preparation, planning, variety selection, pruning, pest management and various maintenance activities are discussed. Over 6 hours of video instruction, activities, and additional resources are available. Qualifies for 6 educational credit hours for Extension Master Gardeners.



Marlette Livestock Auctions Presents 

Spring Fling Animal Auction & Lamb-Stravaganza

Saturday, April 8, 2023 @ 10 AM

6381 Euclid St., Marlette, MI 48453

Featuring Unique, Unusual & Beautiful Breeds*



WELCOME CONSIGNMENTS INCLUDE

Animal Related Equipment • Turkeys, Guineas, Pigeons, Quail, Chickens, Emus, Ducks, Geese & Other Water Fowl • Rabbits • Sheep & Goats • Llamas & Alpacas • Miniature & Full Size Cattle • Ponies, Horses, & Donkeys & More!

Consignments accepted on site Friday, April 7 (9AM-7:30PM) & Saturday April 8 (6AM until sale time). Sellers must provide a clean cage with a solid floor to be sold with the animals (NO cardboard boxes). Sellers must provide clean water and food for overnight animals in cages.

* ATTENTION LAMB PRODUCERS – Plan ahead! Lamb-Stravaganza will be held during a key marketing time for Ramadan/Eid-al-Fitr (April 21-22)

**NOTE – We are NOT able to accept wild or exotic animals that require USDA licensing. (Not sure if what you want to sell qualifies as wild or exotic? Call us!)



For More Information, to Arrange for Hauling, or to Consign Animals Contact

Marlette Livestock Auctions
6381 Euclid St.
Marlette, MI 48453
(989) 635-2183



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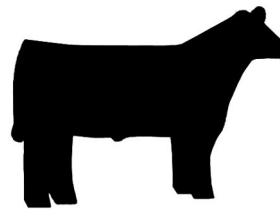
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www.equitycoop.com

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Marlette Livestock Auction

Monthly Dairy & Feeder Cattle Auctions

Sale Date March 11, 2023

Featuring Dairy Cattle, Cow/Calf Pairs & Bred Brood Cows,
Breeder Bulls, & Feeder Steers & Heifers

Hay & Straw Auction - Every Monday @ 12:00 PM

1000+ Small Squares & 150+ Rounds/Large Squares Weekly

Livestock Auction - Every Monday @ 1:00 PM

Including Calves, Sheep & Goats, Feeders, Hogs, Bulls, Beef, &
Butcher Cows

6381 Euclid St., Marlette, MI 48453

Robert Filhart, Owner (989)330-6005

Haley Filhart, Owner (989)430-2055

Classifieds

WANTED: Pasture for 25-35 cow calf pairs for the summer of 2023 in the Eastern UP. Will consider a custom grazing arrangement as well. Call Ben at (989)370-3570.

FOR SALE: Mixed Grass Hay in Escanaba, 4x5 bales. Call Bill Johnson 906-630-4945 or 906-786-4878.

FOR SALE: Hay, mixed round bales, 700# stored inside. Also small square bales of straw. Call Jim Myers (906)399-1649 or (906) 466-2672.

FOR SALE: small square bales of straw and 2nd & 3rd crop hay bales. Call Marenger Potato Farm (906)384-6587.

FOR SALE: 1st crop alfalfa baleage. Call Jim Dalgord at (906) 644-2107.

FOR SALE: Mixed Hay round bales, 700#, \$20. Call Alan or Karen Raynard @ (906) 647-6697, Pickford.

FOR SALE: Black Wagyu Bulls, forage fed. For more information contact Paul Naasz, MSU UPREC, Chatham (906)439-5114 Ext. 2.

FOR SALE: Hay, 5x6 round bales legume grass hay, stored inside. Call Jon and Donna Ahlberg, Iron River (906)265-9333.

Looking for animals to custom graze on 120 acres. Henry Miller 2351 W 6 Mile Rd, Sault Ste Marie, 49783

FOR SALE: Simmental Bulls, mature and young, registered and non-registered. Call Duane Kolpack (906) 362-6862.

Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference

Wednesday, March 8 in Escanaba

9:15am – 4:05pm ET at the Heirman University Center, Room 952 at Bay College

\$40/person lunch provided

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Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center
P.O. Box 168, E3774 University Drive
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If you do not wish to receive this publication, please contact Michelle at colema98@msu.edu or (906) 439-5114

**MCA / MSU Bull
Evaluation Program**

35th Annual Bull Sale

Open House
Saturday, March 4, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

NEW Location - 9442 50th Ave., Remus, MI 49340

Angus, Simmental, SimAngus, RedAngus,
Charolais, Polled Hereford

Sale: March 18, 2023 | 12:30 p.m.
WWW.MIBulls.com

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