

MSU Extension & AgBioResearch State Council Meeting September 27 – 29, 2016

Evergreen Resort
7880 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, Michigan

Tuesday, September 27, 2016 (Council members are encouraged to travel on Monday)

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Welcome Reception – Evergreen

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

7:00 a.m. Breakfast – Evergreen

8:00 a.m. Business Meeting

10:00 a.m. Bus Departs for Kettunen Center

10:30 a.m. Arrive at Kettunen Center
 - Overview Presentation
 - Tour
 - Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bus Departs

1:15 p.m. Arrive for tour of Blackledge Farm – Winner of the Product Center
Award for canola production

2:05 p.m. Bus Departs

2:45 p.m. Arrive for tour of Hidden Hills Dairy Farm, McBain

3:45 p.m. Bus Departs

4:05 p.m. City of Cadillac walking tour with City Manager and Mayor of
Cadillac

5:05 p.m. Depart

5:20 p.m.	Arrive – Hotel, refresh before dinner
6:15 p.m.	Bus Departs
6:30 p.m.	Dinner at Hermann's European Café
8:30 p.m.	Return to Hotel

Thursday, September 29, 2016

7:00 a.m.	Checkout and Breakfast at Evergreen Resort
8:00 a.m.	Bus Departs
8:30 a.m.	Arrive at Dutchman Tree Farm for Tour and Presentation
10:00 a.m.	Bus Departs
10:05 a.m.	Arrive at Arlene Hops Farm
10:45 a.m.	Bus Departs
11:00 a.m.	Arrive at Lake City AgBioResearch Center Tour and Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Adjourn – bus will bring everyone back to Evergreen to depart

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 30 – Winter Webinar, 10:00AM-NOON
Tuesday & Wednesday, February 28 – March 1, 2017 – Lansing
Wednesday, May 31 – Summer Webinar, 10:00AM – NOON
Tuesday-Wednesday, September 19-21 – Fall Meeting, Location TBD
Wednesday, November 30, - Winter Webinar, 10:00AM-NOON



Facts....

- Michigan ranks third in the production of farm grown Christmas trees in the U.S.
- Acreage - 27,200 ac.
- Farm value
\$35 million
- Top counties
Missaukee
Wexford
Oceana
Montcalm
Allegan
- 42% of growers get their information from MSU/MSU Extension

Michigan's Christmas Tree Industry

Climate, soils and a centralized location to markets make Michigan a national leader in the production of conifer seedlings, landscape conifers and Christmas trees.

Michigan grows a wider variety of Christmas tree species than any other leading state. While most states grow only one or two species, Michigan growers produce over 8 conifer species for the national market.

The top species are:

- Fraser fir
- Scotch pine
- Douglas-fir
- Colorado Blue spruce

Source: USDA/NASS Survey 2014

A typical Christmas tree takes 8 to 10 years to go from a newly planted seedling to a harvestable tree. In order to produce a high quality crop, Christmas tree growers must tend their plantations just like any other farmer; controlling weeds and pests, fertilizing and in some cases irrigating, to keep trees green and growing.

MSU Extension is keeping Michigan growers competitive and helping them protect the environment. Current research and outreach projects include:

- Effective use of fungicides to manage plant pathogens
- Application of plant growth regulators for height growth and coning control
- Improving transplant success of container-grown trees
- Effect of release rate of controlled release fertilizer on growth and foliar nutrition
- Evaluating nitrogen source and application timing for optimal nitrogen uptake
- Collaborative Fir Germplasm Evaluation Project – evaluating Turkish and Trojan fir for Christmas tree production
- Genetic tree improvement
- Managing precocious coning in Fraser fir
- Insect and weed management studies



MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

MANAGING FARM STRESS WORKSHOP



Farmers and those within the agricultural industry have a tendency to be eternal optimists, but with all of the variability in agriculture, there are times when we can become overwhelmed and stressed more than usual.

MSU Extension has developed a workshop specially designed for people that work with agricultural producers and farm families who want to know more about managing farm-related stress and learn ways to approach and communicate with those in need.

The 90 minute-2 hour workshop will include:

- Adam Kantrovich providing an overview of how the agriculture industry is currently situated financially.
- Roger Betz discussing his experiences working with farm families that are under financial distress.
- Suzanne Pish highlighting the detrimental impact of stress on our body and state of mind, providing information on how to recognize some of the warning signs of depression, self-harm and mental illness.

To find an upcoming workshop in your area or arrange for a workshop to be delivered at your organization or business, contact Adam Kantrovich at akantrov@anr.msu.edu.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Visit msue.anr.msu.edu/managingfarmstress



OUR SPEAKERS

Adam J. Kantrovich, PhD MSU Extension educator

Adam came to MSU Extension in 2007 after being a faculty member at other institutions and working at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. He has experience raising beef cattle. Adam specializes in estate planning and business succession, agricultural tax management, farm financial analysis and labor policy and law. He has been working with the fruit and vegetable agricultural industries in areas of guest worker tax issues and the Affordable Care Act for agricultural employers.



Roger Betz MSU Extension senior educator

Roger was born and raised on a central Michigan farm not far from Lansing and continues to farm a 900-acre grain farm today. He has worked for MSU Extension for almost 35 years and specializes in estate planning and business succession, agricultural tax management, farm financial analysis and Farm Bill programs. He has worked closely with farms in financial distress including during the agricultural economic downturn of the 1980s. Roger's insights and experience makes him a leading expert working with farms during times of financial distress and those considering expansion opportunities.



Suzanne Pish, M.A. MSU Extension educator

Suzanne has been an Extension educator specializing in social emotional health for 10 years, and is based in the Branch County Extension Office. She has a master's degree in counseling and grew up on a family dairy farm in southwest Michigan, and continues to help with the family farm today. She and her husband have a 100-head herd of meat goats and do some hay ground. Suzanne is the mother of two very active boys, a member of Farm Bureau, a 4-H volunteer and local fair superintendent.



MSU EXTENSION MINDFULNESS & STRESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Stress Less with Mindfulness

The "Stress Less with Mindfulness" series introduces participants to the experience and practice of mindfulness to reduce stress. Research has shown that practicing mindfulness is effective in reducing stress-related symptoms such as worry, depression and physical tension, and may be helpful in managing chronic conditions such as cardiac disease and diabetes.

To learn more about "Stress Less with Mindfulness" or register for a class, visit msue.msu.edu/stressless

RELAX: Alternatives to Anger

How individuals handle their anger and stress affects a radius of people around them. The goal of "RELAX: Alternatives to Anger" is to help young people, parents and caregivers foster healthy relationships so they can live, learn and grow in a safe, affirming and fair environment free from violence, abuse, bullying and harassment. Youth, parents and caregivers will learn to better manage their anger and stress at home and in the workplace.

This multisession program can be provided in a variety of community educational settings. The "RELAX: Alternatives to Anger" series is also available online.

To learn more about "RELAX: Alternatives to Anger" or register for a class, visit msue.msu.edu/relax

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jeffrey W. Dwyer, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. 1P-09:2016-WEB-TC/MR WCAG 2.08

Fall State Council Meeting Speaker Bios

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Shari Spoelman is the District Coordinator for this area (District 6). Her District includes the seven counties of Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Mecosta, Missaukee, Osceola, and Wexford (where Cadillac is). She has been the District Coordinator since the position was developed at the beginning of our “reorganization” in 2010. Prior to that Shari was a Family Consumer Science educator and specialized in Food Safety. In addition to working for MSU, Shari is an elected official, having served on the Cadillac City Council since 2008. She is currently the Mayor Pro-Tem.

Chris Gentry was named director of Kettunen Center in June 2012. He has 25 years of non-profit organizational leadership and management experience in a variety of roles, including manager of a 180-acre facility in Ohio. Chris brings experience in facilities management, environmental and outdoor education delivery management, fund development, marketing and personnel administration to Kettunen Center.

Sara Keinath is a Youth Development Extension Educator based in Wexford County. She works statewide on issues of Youth Leadership and Civic Engagement, as well as Career Exploration and Workforce Preparation.

Jacob Stieg is an Osceola County 4-H Coordinator. Promotes positive youth development thru a variety of programs. Largest local program is animal science thru traditional club based education. Alumni of the Osceola County 4-H program.

Jerry Lindquist is an MSU Extension State wide Grazing Educator & Northwest Michigan Field Crop Educator. He is based in Osceola County where he has served as an MSU Extension Educator for 34 years. His major expertise is in forage production and pasture based beef and dairy production.

Kathy Lee is an MSU Extension senior educator in the Ag and Agribusiness Institute. Kathy provides a variety of educational programs in her geographic coverage area. She has a specialization in dairy cattle genetics and reproduction.

Thursday, September 29, 2016

Jill O'Donnell is a Senior Extension Educator who specializes in Christmas Trees. Jill works for Michigan State University Extension and has worked with the Michigan Christmas tree industry for over 32 years. She provides leadership to the development of Extension educational programs with emphasis on integrated crop management for Christmas tree production and marketing for the state of Michigan. Her programs and research trials over the years have included nutrition, disease, insect and weed management, shearing, cone production, fir variety trials and plant material evaluation.

Erin Lizotte is a Michigan State University Extension Statewide Integrated Pest Management Educator located in Wexford County, she is also affiliated with the MSU IPM Program Office in the Department of Entomology. Erin provides leadership and focus for integrated pest management education through grant funded research and education. Erin also provides pest management support for emerging crops including hop and chestnut.

Dr. Jason Rowntree is an Associate Professor in Animal Science at Michigan State University focusing on grass-finishing of beef, livestock grazing influence on ecosystem services and carbon footprint. He is faculty coordinator of Lake City Research Center an 810 ac facility that maintains 300 AU of registered and commercial Red Angus cattle and also supports bioenergy and potato research. Dr. Rowntree is also an accredited educator in Holistic Management specializing in developing land-based decisions that improve the triple bottom line of agriculture. Dr. Rowntree is Chairman of the board of the Grassfed Exchange, the leading educational outreach of the USA grass-fed industry and is an advisor for Standard Soil, a newly formed B-Corporation whose goal is to supply the nation's growing demand for grass finished beef at commercial scale.

Kable Thurlow is housed in Gladwin County, and started with MSU Extension in March of 1998 as a 4-H Agent. Since 2011, he has been in the Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute and is a Beef Educator. He works with Dr. Jason Rowntree and the research that he is doing at the Lake City Research Center on Grass Forage based beef production.



Michigan State University Extension Memorandum of Agreement with Michigan Counties

Considerations

- After thorough review and evaluation of the multi-year Michigan State University Extension memorandum of agreement with counties, MSU Extension has created a single, comprehensive agreement for each county, renewable annually.
- The FY 2017 agreement includes only a 1 percent increase in the county assessment.
- This unique partnership enables county officials to provide constituents with local access to MSU Extension's vast network of educators, faculty members and specialists, and statewide programs such as 4-H Youth Development, agriculture, natural resources, health and nutrition, and community and economic development.
- The majority of MSU Extension educators' salaries are paid by our state and federal funding sources.
- Many county partners fund additional staffing beyond their base assessment to address specific local priorities and needs.

In August 2015, MSU Extension and AgBioResearch began working with people throughout the state on an issues identification project. This important process helps us determine where to concentrate the time and energy of MSU faculty and staff members for the greatest outcomes. We engaged nearly 1,000 Michigan residents in face-to-face discussions and received input from more than 5,000 people via our online survey.

Old and young, urban and rural—everyone had an opportunity to weigh in. Over the next several months, we'll distill this input and use it to ensure that we continue to best serve the needs of your community.

Through this issues identification process, one thing remained clear: county government input is critical to the MSU Extension programming model. In fact, without the support of our county partners,

MSU Extension cannot invest state or federal funds into a county. This three-way partnership means that we can work in concert with counties to bring you the high-value, focused education and research that your county needs. That means that every dollar a county invests in MSU Extension results in a sizable return on investment.

We understand that counties are under immense pressure to balance revenues and

expenditures. We, too, have experienced funding challenges. With your help, we have conservatively managed our resources, allowing us to keep our average annual county assessment increase to only 1 percent. By streamlining operations and continuing to invest in quality, talented staff members, we have been able to decrease expenditures while maintaining high quality programming.

Bottom line

- In fiscal years 2012, 2013 and 2014, MSU Extension did not increase the base assessment for counties.
- In FY 2015, the county base assessment increased by 4 percent.
- In FY 2016, MSU Extension increased the base assessment by only 3 percent,
- despite an earlier agreement to increase it by 5 percent.
- In FY 2017, we will increase the base assessment by only 1 percent.
- This equates to an average increase of 1.33 percent over the last six years.

Thank you for your continued partnership. By working together, we can continue to help people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, families, communities and businesses.