

UP Ag Connections

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NEWS & VIEWS

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Seems everybody has a take on soil health these days. It's the hot topic. Whether it's soil chemistry, organic matter content, earthworm content or microbial content, it seems like everyone has their own take on what constitutes soil health. Soil health isn't my area of expertise, but I do have an understanding of how critically important it is. The hard part about listening to everyone talk about soil health is how diverse the opinions are. Truly it's not just both ends of the spectrum but also the far corners of the quadrants.

Back about 25 years ago I was an agent in Lower Michigan and I heard a corn producer from St. Joe County talking about their sandy soils. Irrigation pivots were going in rapidly and with ensured adequate water they were growing consistent high yields. The grower made the statement that the sands job was to provide shade for the roots. He was exaggerating his point but provides a pretty good indicator of the mentality of some growers at the time and possibly now. We've had a long history in areas across the country of not demonstrating sound soil management. Soil erosion continues to be an issue that needs attention, but we've made real strides in that area. The most recent emphasis seems to be focused on organic matter content, avoiding nutrient loss such as nitrogen leaching and phosphorous runoff and organisms living in the soil including earth worms, bacteria, fungi and a long continued list. Last month I attended a conference that hosted Gabe Brown as the main speaker. Gabe is a crop and livestock farmer from South Dakota. He's a fascinating speaker and interesting to listen to. I won't have room here to fully capture it all but he has focused his farming practices to improve soil organic matter and soil organisms. He switched to a no-till system that required more fertilizer and herbicides in the scheme but now allows for very little fertilizer and herbicide use. He uses no-till because he says it adversely affects soil organic matter and soil organisms. Gabe uses cover crops extensively to the point that he has had difficulty obtaining crop insurance because the crops are not true monocultures. For example hairy vetch is planted to grow under cover in corn fields. Gabe also plants many species into cover crops and then mob grazes which aids to create a thick thatch of protective layer to protect soils, provide housing to micro-organisms and deter weed growth.

Growers across the U.P. have increased the use of cover crops to protect soils and capture nutrients. I've also seen an increase of soil tests that are requesting organic matter. Just the fact that producers are testing for it indicates an increased awareness by producers as to the importance of these things. The MSU Research and Extension Center in Chatham is going to be evaluating impacts of various management practices on soil health indicators. One of the challenges of measuring soil health goes back to my comments at the beginning of the article. Identifying measures to maximize vs. optimize various indicators. Certainly some indicators such soil chemistry need to be optimized rather than maximized. I think we need more and better information to answer questions like this regarding other aspects. I am excited to observe the changes of soil characteristics over time and various management regimes with emphasis on soil health and the results as they pertain to crop yields and profitability.

~Frank

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MARKET REPORT (3/19/14)

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Market Ready Prices

| Choice Steers | \$135-\$155 | per 100 lbs. |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Holstein Steers | \$110-\$140 | per 100 lbs. |
| Hogs | \$68-\$72 | per 100 lbs. |
| Lambs | \$160-\$180 | per 100 lbs. |
| Cull cows | \$80-\$100 | per 100 lbs. |
| Calves | \$150-\$330 | per 100 lbs. |
| Goats | \$95-\$120 | per 100 lbs. |

Breeding and Feeder Animals

| Grade Holstein cows | \$1800 - 2600 per head |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Grade Holstein bred heifers | \$1500 - 2100 per head |

Feed Prices across the U.P.

| • • | Avg. \$/cwt | Avg. \$/ton | Price Range |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Corn | \$13.18 | \$263.50 | \$220-307 |
| Soymeal | \$30.20 | \$604.00 | \$535-673 |
| Oats | \$18.80 | \$376.00 | \$320-432 |
| Barley | \$14.28 | \$285.50 | \$215-356 |
| 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— 3 - 9 month old meat goats, \$1.75 per pound Call 906-355-2310

Super Duper Yooper Pig Sale Johnson Brothers Sale Barn 3740 18th Road

Escanaba, MI April 19, 2014

Barn opens at Noon Sale starts at 2 p.m. E.S.T.

Offering 60+ elite late January and early February barrows and gilts. For more information call: Todd Boicken - 815-592-9291

Check Us Out On Facebook! Super Duper Yooper Pig Sale



Pure Michigan Business Connect

MEDC offers assistance for farmers and agricultural producers.

Posted on March 18, 2014 by Rob Sirrine, Michigan State University Extension

Are you a farmer, agriculture entrepreneur, food hub manager or value-added agricultural producer?

Then Pure Michigan Business Connect may be able to help your business grow. Pure Michigan Business Connect is a public/private initiative that serves to help grow and enhance the competitiveness of Michigan businesses. The initiative was developed by the Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC) and offers businesses assistance in two major ways: 1) access to business to business (B2B) networks and 2) free or low cost professional business services. The B2B network provides companies that would like to source Michigan products with an opportunity to do so by connecting Michigan businesses. One way that connections are made is through "supplier summits". MEDC and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development are co-hosting an invitation-only B2B matchmaking event on March 26, 2014 in Lansing, Mich. The result will be an increase in procurement opportunities between Michigan businesses and greater collective investment in Michigan's economy. Pure Michigan Business Connect also connects entrepreneurs or startup businesses with participating businesses that offer accounting, legal, consulting, web design and other services at no cost or reduced rates. Since the program is open to all Michigan based businesses, agricultural entrepreneurs or valueadded food processors can take advantage of these services to help launch or expand their businesses. If you are an agricultural or value-added producer interested in participating in the program, visit www.puremichiganb2b.com and complete a "Request for Services" agreement. Your completed form will generate emails to participating professional service providers that will be in contact within 7-10 business days. For more information please visit the Pure Michigan Business Connect website or view an informative webinar on Pure Michigan **Business Connect.**

For more information on Michigan State University Extension, visit their webpage or contact Rob Sirrine, MSU Extension Community Food Systems educator, or visit the MSU Hops Production Website.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension.

For more information, visit <u>http://www.msue.msu.edu</u>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <u>http://</u> <u>expert.msue.msu.edu</u>, or call 888-678-3464.

What is the best time to plant corn in Michigan?

Planting date research has shown that the optimum corn planting period for much of Michigan is the beginning to middle of May. There are no agronomic or economic advantages to planting corn before April 20.

Posted on March 17, 2014 by <u>George Silva</u>, Michigan State University Extension

The weather forecasters say that with so much ice and snow still present in Michigan that the likelihood of an earlier than normal start to the upcoming growing season is unlikely. This medium to long-term forecast predicts a general continuation of colder than normal temperatures. However, given the fact that Michigan weather is so unpredictable, it is time to review our corn planting time guidelines.

Together with soil moisture, the temperature determines the ideal planting time for many Michigan crops. The minimum threshold temperature for corn seed germination is 50 degrees Fahrenheit in the seed zone. Corn will germinate unevenly when soil temperatures are less than 50F. Thermal time from planting to emergence is approximately 115 growing degree days (GDDs) using the modified growing degree formula with air temperatures or about 119 GDDs based on soil temperatures. Uneven soil temperature can be caused by differences in soil texture, soil color, soil drainage, surface residue and seeding depth. When soils warm to the mid-50s or warmer, emergence will occur in seven days or less if soil moisture is adequate.

Previous planting date research by <u>Michigan State University Exten-</u> <u>sion</u> specialists has consistently shown that there is no agronomic or economic advantage for planting corn before April 20 in Michigan. For much of Michigan, the optimum time to plant corn usually is from the beginning to the middle of May. Because of the shortness of this optimum planting period, most growers plant some corn before and after the optimum dates. If the field conditions are right and the calendar says late April, then plant corn if the soil temperature is above 50F. If, however, the soil conditions are not right, then delay planting until early May without a yield penalty.

Typically soil takes a longer time to warm up than the air temperature. An inexpensive soil thermometer gauge is all you need to keep tabs on soil temperature 2 inches below the soil surface. You can also visit MSU's <u>Enviro</u>-

<u>Weather</u> website to check the soil temperature and several other important weather features from a station closest to you. Also, make sure that your planting date is within the planting period specified in your crop insurance policy. Planting corn late can invite more trouble than planting early. Typically yield losses start on corn that is planted in late May. Studies in Wisconsin have shown that corn yield planted in early June decreases at a rate of 3 percent for each day planting is delayed.

This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit http://www.msue.msu.edu.

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Heavy snow loads and low temperatures challenge Michigan greenhouse growers

While harsh winter wreaks havoc on Michigan greenhouses, growers remain optimistic for spring sales.

Posted on **March 17, 2014** by <u>Heidi Wollaeger</u>, Michigan State University Extension

The almost record-breaking snowfall and subzero temperatures have been wreaking havoc on Michigan greenhouse businesses and those throughout the Midwest who are currently in the spring production rush. Michigan, the third largest producer of floriculture crops in the United States, has an industry grossing \$400 million in sales in 2012 according to the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service. The height of spring production season, from January through June, includes some of the coldest months of year. Greenhouse growers are no strangers to Michigan winters, but this winter has been particularly difficult. Challenges faced by greenhouse growers include damaged greenhouse structures from heavy snow loads, high heating bills, increase in labor to remove snow, chilling or freezing damage on vegetative cuttings, and disruptions in production shipping and scheduling. Numerous greenhouse structures have been damaged as a result of the heavy snow throughout Michigan.

Michigan State University Extension surveyed greenhouse growers throughout the state and 36 producers responded with their experiences from this winter. Of those who responded, 49 percent of greenhouse operations reported having structural damage due to snow load, including more than 14 acres of greenhouses. Some owners avoided heavy snow damage by heating their greenhouses to at least 50 degrees to melt the snow. Their reported increases in heating costs ranged from none to 300 percent. The variation can be contributed to many factors including whether the producers had a contract for a fixed price for natural gas and how much greenhouse owners heated their structures to melt the snow.

While some plants are grown from seed, others are shipped to growers as plugs, liners or unrooted cuttings. Shipping the young plants has been challenging for suppliers as a result of the extremely cold temperatures. Sixty-five percent of growers reported receiving a shipment of cuttings with either chilling injury (sublethal damage) or freezing injury. While suppliers have been diligently replacing the losses, they have also been forced to delay shipping product for sometimes extended periods to prevent further losses. The unavoidable delays in the shipments of plant materials have altered production timing of crops. Ornamental plant producers often have tight scheduling and 53 percent of growers who responded reported that their scheduling has been disrupted by the extreme cold.

Despite the many challenges, growers remain optimistic that when spring finally comes, consumers will be excited to buy plants to beautify their gardens and homes. As many people throughout Michigan have grown tired of the relentless winter, there is no question that spring will be especially enjoyable this year.

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

GUPAA Annual Meeting

The Growing UP Agricultural Association (GUPAA) was formed in 1978 to help find answers to the many concerns, problems and opportunities of Upper Peninsula agriculture and agricultural research. Its' main focus has been in an advisory capacity with Michigan State University to address these concerns and opportunities. It serves as the recognized commodity organization of the UP and provides research priorities to Project GREEEN and the Animal Science department of MSU. These priorities are utilized by the University to determine grant allocations for future research.

The 2014 Annual Membership meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, room 952A of the Heirman University Center, Bay College, Escanaba, MI. Registration will begin at 10:30 am ET with the annual business meeting being conducted at 11:00. Lunch will be available for \$10.00 followed by the afternoon Keynote Address provided by Michelle Walk and titled "The U.P. Food Exchange".

The U.P. Food Exchange (UPFE or The Exchange) is an agricultural hub being created with funds via a Regional Food Systems Grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in November of 2012. Michelle Walk of MSU Extension and Natasha Lantz of the Marquette Food Co-op are responsible for the overall development of The U.P. Food Exchange and coordination of its activities. The U.P. Food Exchange connects local food activity within each of the Upper Peninsula's three distinct regions (eastern, central, and western), and coordinates local food efforts between the regions/hubs. Michelle Walk will present on ways producers in the U.P. can take advantage of the programs UPFE administers and how it can open new, local markets for agricultural products.

Michelle Walk is a Community Development Educator with Michigan State University Extension in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Michelle has worked in the community development field for 21 years, including 10 years with MSU Extension. In her current role with MSU Extension she focuses primarily on business development related to tourism and local foods. In addition, Michelle serves as an Innovation Counselor with the MSU Product Center. Michelle provides leadership and coordination for the Eastern Upper Peninsula Food Hub project and the Upper Peninsula Food Exchange. She has a B.S. in Economics from Oakland University and an M.A. in Economics from Michigan State University.

Membership is open to all with an interest in promoting UP agriculture. Annual dues of \$10.00 are assessed to offset the costs of the association. All those interested in membership are encouraged to attend the meeting on April 1, or can call 906-439-5114 for more information.



Key to Profit Sale – Cancelled

Due to low consignment numbers the 2014 Key to Profit Sale that was to be held in Escanaba scheduled for April 26, 2014 has been cancelled.

The Simple Economics of Breeding Soundness Exams for Bulls

Conducting breeding soundness exams on bulls is cost effective every year. It will be critical to check fertility before the 2014 breeding season after the severe winter.

Frank Wardynski Ruminant Extension Educator

Annually, about 20% of bulls do not pass breeding soundness exams. After the harsh temperatures and wind chills experienced this past winter, many anticipate that number to increase do to frost bit testicles and poor body condition. Under normal circumstances conducting breeding soundness exams on bulls is cost effective. Following this severely cold winter, the decision is going to be more critical as the percent of bulls that do not pass is expected to increase.

Over the past 10 years beef cow production costs and feeder calf prices have risen to historically high levels. Using infertile bulls will result in cows not becoming pregnant during the breeding season, fewer calves to sell and more cows being fed without offsetting income. Fertility testing bulls can be conducted for less than \$5.00 per cow. That's really cheap compared to the costs associated with open cows.

Michigan State University Extension recommends fertility testing bulls every year before breeding season. The cost is \$55 per bull when examined at one of the scheduled clinics. The following schedule has been set for the Upper Peninsula:

- April 21, Cooks
- April 22, Garden and Chatham
- April 23, Bark River
- April 24, Pelkie, Ontonagon, Iron River
- April 25, Escanaba

To schedule an appointment, contact Frank Wardynski, Ruminant Extension Educator with Michigan State University at

<u>wardynsk@anr.msu.edu</u> or 906-884-4386. Additionally, Rene Coyer with the Thompson Vet Clinic in Manistique conducts breeding soundness exams on bulls across the U.P. by appointment., call 906-341-2813 or email at <u>Thompson Veterinary Clinic</u>.



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<u> April 2014 - FSA News</u>

Changes in Farming Operations

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 your FSA office within 30 days of the changes. 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 ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring and ensure that no late certification fees are incurred. 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.

NAP – Notice of Loss – Has Weather Effected Your Crops?

Policy holders are reminded that they must submit a "<u>Notice of</u> <u>Loss</u>" (FSA-576) within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent. If you have noticed that your crop might be light due to frosts, cold weather, or excessive moisture contact your FSA office so that they have the opportunity to take a look at the crop. For those of you that have filed a notice of loss, you need to keep the office informed of your harvest conditions. If you are not going to harvest all or part of a block, an appraisal will need to be completed on that block. This appraisal will be used in calculating your loss claim.

Changing Bank Accounts

All FSA payments should be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc. FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact your local FSA office.

GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <u>http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe.</u>

Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution – or recon – is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

Reconstitutions—continued

Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in specific programs. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

- **Estate Method** the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more person; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **Cropland Method** the division of bases in the same proportion that the cropland for each resulting tract relates to the cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects in insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

GREAT INTEREST RATES : Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

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

2.125 percent for 7 years with a loan of \$100,000 or less 2.750 percent for 10 years with a loan of \$100,000 - \$250,000

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

Contact your local FSA county office for April's interest rates.



Key to Profit Sale that was scheduled for April 26, 2014 is CANCELLED

Taking proper precautions prior to county fair and exhibition events can safeguard animal health

Consider vaccination and biosecurity protocols for the 2014 show season.

Posted on **March 14, 2014** by <u>Beth Ferry</u>, and Madonna Gemus, Michigan State University Extension

As county fairs and livestock exhibitions start preparing for the 2014 show season in Michigan it is important to review, consider and implement vaccination and biosecurity protocols prior to tagging or weigh-in events. Fair and event managers, along with swine superintendents should be aware of the various animal health risks, including Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv) and Swine Influenza that have been present in both small farm and commercial pigs and to discuss the best methods for reducing disease transmission for pigs that will be exhibited this summer at livestock events.

Vaccinations

If it is possible, encourage youth to purchase pigs from a breeder who currently has a vaccination program for their herd. This way historical information, herd health status and veterinarian recommendations can be taken into account when vaccinating. If the breeder of the pigs does not have a vaccination program in place, youth can work with their veterinarian to ensure that their animals receive the correct vaccines. Dr. Madonna Gemus, Swine Extension Veterinarian with <u>Michigan State University</u> suggests that youth producers vaccinate for Circovirus (PCV-2) and Influenza (SIV) at minimum. Many breeders also include vaccines for Erysipelas and Mycoplasma hyopneumonia.

A vaccine program will help provide protection for exhibition pigs from common swine diseases. Circovirus is commonly found in commercial herds and cause loss of body condition, unthriftiness and rough hair coats. Swine Influenza is most often expressed as a common cold in pigs and is characterized by elevated temperatures and respiratory rates, along with off feed events. Certain strains of this virus are also zoonotic, making it possible for the virus to transfer from pigs to humans, resulting in a public health concern. Vaccinating for Erysipelas in feeder pigs can reduce incidence of lameness caused by bacterial infection. Vaccination for Mycoplasma hyopneumonia will reduce the incidence of pneumonia and reduced growth common in pigs derived from positive herds or herds in high Mycoplasma dense areas. As with most vaccines, this will not guarantee that your pigs will not be exposed to the different diseases, however if your animals do become exposed it will help reduce the severity and incidence rate of the disease, which is important when achieving maximum growth of your animal.

This initial vaccine dose should be given to the animals before purchase or shortly after they arrive at the new owner's farm. A second or booster dose of the vaccine should be given to the pigs a few weeks following the initial dose. The number of days between the initial dose and booster dose should be no less than 21 days and no more than 50 days. This will help ensure that your pigs have protection through exhibition and market. Currently a 4-way vaccine (Circo, SIV, Erysipelas, Mycoplasma) can be sourced for around \$2.50 per dose from local veterinarians and can be administered by a parent or responsible adult, following proper injection protocols.

Biosecurity: Risk factors and points of infection

When looking at the possibility of disease spread and health risks for exhibition pigs it is important to review biosecurity protocols and procedures. The highest risk of disease transfer comes when pigs from different sources are comingled with each other at a single location. Good examples of these are weigh-ins or tagging events for swine projects at a county fair. These events may not allow for nose-to-nose contact of the pigs, however disease and viruses can still "hitch a ride" on people, various objects or be tracked from place to place in manure. If such an event is scheduled for your county fair it is important to eliminate as many risk factors as possible and establish guidelines for those helping with these activities.

Create a protocol where the tagging/vaccinating person(s) entering the trailer wears disposable (Tyvek) coveralls, disposable or rubber boots and gloves. Once the person has completed the tagging and vaccination process they should wait until the pigs have quieted down or are on the front portion of the trailer, before exiting the trailer, eliminating the risk of a pig exiting the trailer and being exposed to other pigs and manure. An important rule of thumb is to leave as much organic matter (manure and bedding) in the trailer as possible; this eliminates other people tracking infected manure throughout the area.

Upon exiting the trailer the designated person should put on clean Tyvek coveralls, gloves and boots. They should either change their disposable boots or remove as much manure and bedding from their rubber boots as possible and dip them in a foot bath of bleach solution: one cup of 6 percent bleach to 32 cups of water at the entrance/exit point of the trailer. While in the footbath the person should remove their gloves and coveralls and discard into a garbage bag. Event coordinators can purchase garbage bags with disinfection in the bags and drawstrings if they so desire to dispose of the used coveralls, boots and gloves. The designated person should also wipe hands and tagging equipment with Clorox disinfecting wipes or dip tagging tools into a bleach solution (1:32 ratio) as a disinfectant. Disposable syringes should be used to vaccinate each trailer of pigs and needles should be changed between trailers.

Because organic matter is hard to completely disinfect, you will need to change your foot baths often (every 4 or 5 trailers) and discard used bleach in an area away from any livestock traffic. Having Clorox wipes and disposable boots available for anyone who is helping open and close trailer doors is also important. The less contact that is made with areas that may be contaminated with virus the better.<u>Michigan State University Exten-</u>

sion suggests eliminating pre-fair weigh-ins for feeder size pigs for the 2014 exhibition year, as complete disinfection of a shared scale would be nearly impossible and increased pig traffic in common areas highly increases the likelihood of disease spread. At any livestock event it is important that exhibitors use proper observation skills and only transport healthy animals, especially when a central collection point is being used. If an exhibitor does detect clinical symptoms in their pigs such as elevated tempera-

tures, diarrhea and increase respiratory rates, *allow them to make alternative arrangements for tagging or vaccinating their animals*. Extreme care should be taken to not bring sick pigs to locations where other animals or exhibitors will be. When reviewing your fair or exhibitions protocols for pre-fair weighing, tagging or validation events it is important to minimize the risk the disease spread. Evaluate each step of the process and work to minimize the comingling of pigs and shared equipment or tools. Implementing good biosecurity practices will help maintain the health of the animals involved in your event and allow for youth to have successful starts to their swine projects for the 2014 show season.

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| Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association Collecting Cattle on Tuesdays at the Larry Linsmeier Farm north of Menominee, MI 906-863-8123 www.equitycoop.com | HUGHES WESTFALIA SURGE LLC ③ Surge pipelines ③ Sanitation supplies ③ Cow mats ③ Ritchie Water Fountains ④ Silo unloaders Call: Larry @ 906-786-0806 Henry @ 906-786-7190 | Chippewa County Farm Bureau Farm Bureau Fresident: Bruce Berkompas Secretary: Mary Robertson 1610 Ashmun Street Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783 906-635-7250 mrobert@ctyfb.com | BOWER AUCTIONS Wour Upper Peninsula logging, farm, and estate auctioneers. Bark River, Michigan 906-466-9006 www.bowerauctions.com Auctioneer Joe Bower, 4th genera- tion Upper Peninsula family farmer | |

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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

<u>APRIL</u>

 April 1
 10:30 am ET GUPAA Annual Meeting at Bay College, Escanaba, MI

 April 2
 7:00 pm ET, Getting started with Hoophouses - webinar

 April 11
 9:00 am, 2014 Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Clinic – Gladwin, MI

| | April 11 9.00 and, 2014 Dan Dreeding Soundiess Exam Chine Gladwin, in | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Registered Maine Anjou and Angus | Contact Kable Thurlow, 989-426-7741 April 11 Deadline to order Trees/Shrubs from Gogebic County Conservation | |
| CLAY KNOLL FARMS | District call 906-663-4512 or www.gogebicountymi.gov/soil1/html | |
| | April 15, 2014 - April 22, 2014 16 Hour ServSafe Dickinson County Pine Mountain Resort, N3332 Pine Mountain Rd., Iron Mountain, MI | U.P. Agriculture |
| Open & Bred | contact Beth Waitrovich: 888-678-3464 ext. 34254 | Connection |
| Heifers and | or <u>waitrovi@anr.msu.edu</u> | |
| Breeding Age | April 17 2014 Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Clinic – Lake City | Frank Wardynski |
| Bulls available | Contact: Kable Thurlow, 989-426-7741, Doug Carmichael, 231-839-4608 | Managing Editor |
| Breeding Cattle | April 19 2014 Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Clinic – Remus. | Dairy & Livestock |
| to Impact the | Contact Kevin Gould, 616-527-5357 or Dr. Todd Miller, 231-832- | Educator (906) 884-4386 |
| Present and Influence the | 3680 | wardynsk@anr.msu.edu |
| Future. Breeding Stock-Bulls | Anril 19 Barn open at 12:00 noon, Sale at 2:00 pm EST | |
| Show Prospects- Steers | Super Duper Yooper Pig Sale, Escanaba MI | Roxy Kahn |
| Duana Simpking & Song | April 21-25 Breeding Soundness Exam for Bulls | Publications Editor |
| Duane Simpkins & Sons Home 989-426-3244 | April 26 Key to Profit Sale CANCELLED | (906) 884-4386 Fami (000) 884 2582 |
| Cell 989-329-6141 | May | Fax: (906) 884-2582 msue66@msu.edu |
| | May 4 Auction starts at NOON ,FFA Alumni Consignment Auction, | insuccoola insuccuu |
| Gary & Jan Simpkins | Havelka's Hwy 41, Wallace, MI Call 906-753-4192 | Published monthly by |
| Home 989-426-8185 | | Ontonagon County |
| Cell 989-329-4668 | | MSU Extension |
| Gladwin, MI | | 725 Greenland Road |
| | | Ontonagon, MI 49953 |