



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

May 2016

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 20 Issue 5

In this issue:

- Page 2
Livestock producer input sought
- Page 3
Dairy Calf Care School
Cooperators sought for research trials
- Page 4
Menominee County Young
Farmer Meet and Greet
- Page 5
Veterinarian Feed Directive
- Page 6
MI DNR Becoming an Outdoor
Woman registration
- Page 7
Market Report
- Page 8
UPREC Consignment Auction
- Page 9
Malting barley website launch
North Farm Short Course
Together at the Farm
- Page 10
Calendar of events

Protecting pollinators, composting, tools of the trade were focus of Smart Gardening program for Upper Peninsula gardeners

Upper Peninsula gardeners recently benefitted from a [Michigan State University Extension Smart Gardening](#) program at the [Escanaba Kiwanis Noon Home & Garden Show](#) held at the UP State Fairgrounds on April 8-10th. Along with a [Smart Gardening](#) informational booth, attendees could choose to attend any of thirteen different Smart Gardening presentations, create a mason bee hotel to take home, and win numerous garden-themed door prizes contributed by garden show sponsors.

[Escanaba Kiwanis Noon](#) board members reported an approximate show attendance of 4,516 people. Seventy-three people attended the [Smart Gardening](#) presentations offered through the entire show. These included: Smart Care & Selection of Hydrangeas by Dave Gafner, Smart Gardening Vertically with Pallets and Smart Gardening for Pollinators by Rebecca Krans, MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator, Smart Gardening with Compost, Smart Gardening with Worm castings, Smart Gardening with Youth, and Get the 'smart' mix for your growing needs, by Brad Morgan, CEO Morgan Composting, Starting Small by Liz Slajus UP Consumer Horticulture Support and Extension Master Gardener, Smart Tools of the Trade and Smart Gardening with Season Extenders by Collin Thompson, [North Farm Manager/UPREC](#), and Garden Hoe demonstration by Matt Hansen.

[Michigan Extension Master Gardener](#) Smart Gardening Volunteers were on hand to provide all of the twenty-five free smart gardening tip sheets and resources to booth visitors. Twenty-four visitors from five different Upper Peninsula counties signed up to receive future smart gardening information and notification of future gardening events. Extension Advanced Master Gardeners and trainees were also on hand to help and/or create mason bee hotels for visitors to take home and put up in their yards or gardens to help create a nesting place for these important native pollinators. A total of 140 mason bee hotels were given out. Advice on how to care and maintain the bee hotel, as well as the new [Smart Gardening for Pollinators tip sheets](#) were provided to visitors.



North Farm Manager, Collin Thompson, center, shows season extenders with low tunnel construction with audience participants. (Photo R. Krans)

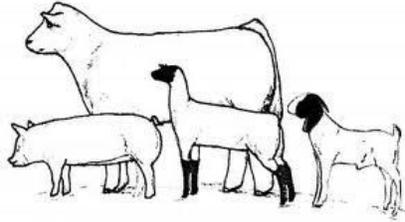
Visitors could also sign up to receive more information about the upcoming Extension Master Gardener class that will be held in Escanaba on Thursday evenings starting Aug. 25th through Dec. 1st. Go to http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/master_gardener_volunteer_program and under events, it lists the Escanaba location. Partial scholarships are available, but you are required to register before applying for an online scholarship.

A number of different garden hoes were also on display for booth visitors. Attendees at each of the Smart Gardening presentations had the opportunity to win garden-themed door prizes which included a local wine/cheese/chocolate gift basket, garden tools, and much more. Please check out the full list of contributors at the [Escanaba Kiwanis Noon website](#).

Rebecca Krans
Consumer Horticulture Educator, MSU Extension

Livestock Producer Input Needed for Multi-Species Processing Feasibility Study

The Upper Peninsula Multi-species Processing Feasibility Study Project is a cooperative venture between several stakeholders including Marquette County, MSU



Extension, Upper Peninsula Food Exchange, Farm Bureau, and regional planning organizations, and has hired Karen Karp & Partners along with John-Mark Hack of Marksbury Farm and BJH Advisors to conduct a feasibility study. The study is designed to understand the needs of livestock producers relating to harvest and processing and what additional resources are needed to support livestock producers in the U.P..

Livestock producers are critically important to the study. The project team needs to understand the number and type of animals in the region that could be harvested and processed in the UP, the areas in the UP that are underserved, and the specific types of services that are needed.

The survey for livestock producers in the UP can be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UPMeatProcessing> or may be completed over the telephone by contacting Jan at the Chippewa county MSU Extension office at 906-635-6368.

The survey will be open from May 1 through May 31, 2016.

For additional information about the project contact Michelle Walk at walkmich@msu.edu or 906-635-6368 or Thyra Karlstrom at tkarlstrom@mqtco.org or 906-225-8192. For questions about the survey please contact Ben Kerrick at Karen Karp & Partners at ben@kkandp.com or 212-260-1070.



Marquette, MI
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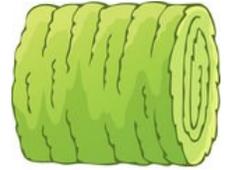
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Breeding soundness exams for bulls

Conducting breeding soundness exams on breeding bulls is an important first step to ensure that the breeding season will be successful. Michigan State University will be conducting Breeding soundness exams at various locations across the U.P. April 25 – 28. The schedule is listed below. The cost is \$60/ bull. To register bulls for exams please contact Frank Wardynski, Ruminant Educator with Michigan State University Extension at 906-884-4386 (office) or 906-281-0918 or wardynsk@anr.msu.edu.

April 25	John Haindl	Cooks
April 26	Dan Dalgord	Garden
	UPREC	Chatham
April 27	Scott Wallace	Bark River
April 28	Steve Acciaccia	Pelkie
	Dykstra Farm	Ontonagon
	Jon Ahlberg	Iron River

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Dairy Calf Care School – Save the Date

by Frank Wardynski

Calf Care School is a one-day school jam-packed with useful information and training that can be implemented on any dairy farm. Participants will gain hands-on experience with calves and learn and/or review concepts and skills associated with profitable calf management from birth to the transition period. Topics will include: Newborn Calf Care, Colostrum Management, Using a Refractometer, Milk/Milk Replacer Feeding, Dry Feed & Water, Basic Calf Nutrition, Calf Housing, Dehorning, Vaccinations, Weaning, Monitoring Performance, Maintaining Records, Early Transition Period, and Bull Calf Care.

Meeting dates and locations

June 21 Menominee MSUE Office, Stephenson 9:30-3:30 CDT

June 22 UPREC, Chatham 9:30-3:30 EDT

June 23 Rudyard Twp Hall, Rudyard 9:30-3:30 EDT

The cost of the program will be \$35, which includes lunch, notebook and instructional materials. Participants can register by sending registration form and with payment to Clinton County MSU Extension office or online at events.anr.msu.edu. More details to follow.

Wanted: Deworming Cattle Cooperators

Michigan State University Beef and Dairy Extension Educator, Frank Wardynski, is looking for cattle producers to cooperate in collecting samples and using strategic deworming practices. Two protocols have been developed for producers to collect fecal samples and submit for egg count determination. One protocol calls for producers to submit samples for fecal egg counts and using the egg count concentration to determine if animals need to be dewormed. Another protocol calls for fecal samples to be collected at the time of deworming and again after a short time period to determine if internal parasites are developing immunity to deworming products.

Producers interested in cooperating should call Frank Wardynski at 906-884-4160 or email at wardynsk@anr.msu.edu. The cost of fecal egg count analysis will be free. Producers will be responsible for cost of packaging and shipping sample and for the cost of deworming products.

Dairy Bull/Steer Calf Raising Project

Michigan State University Beef and Dairy Extension Educator, Frank Wardynski, is looking for dairy calf raisers to cooperate on a project to compare rearing methods. Marketing baby male dairy calves has been a significant challenge out of the U.P. over the last couple decades due to the Tuberculosis situation in the state of Michigan. The market has been a roller coaster in recent years ranging from the sale of calves not covering the cost of transportation to calves selling at record high levels just a few years ago. One of the challenges is the lack of consistent profitability in the business and a lack of good information regarding the cost of production in various operations here in the U.P.

Calf raisers interested in cooperating on a project are asked to call Frank Wardynski at 906-884-4160 or email at wardynsk@anr.msu.edu. Cooperators will be asked to weigh a portion of calves into and out of facilities during milk feeding and transition periods post weaning. Also, information such as milk, feed, mortality, morbidity and facility description will be required.

Who will you call on?

It could be said the saying, "it's not what you know it's who you know" is more important today than it has ever been. As the practice of farming becomes even more precise and the management systems more detailed the amount of information can be an overload, but if you have a network of individuals whose advice and opinion you trust the task of remembering everything gets a little easier.

Often times it takes years to flesh out your network with changes being inevitable. One way to build your network is by getting involved in organizations and making connections. Menominee County Young Farmers is one such organization that aims to bring together individuals with a focus on helping young farmers and agriculturists (16-35 years old) build their networks. Young farmers and agriculturalists are never too young to make connections and build relationships. Menominee County Young Farmers knows that everyone has something to offer and has something to learn.

Join Menominee County Young Farmers for a Meet and Greet at Belgiumtown Restaurant on April 28th at 7 pm for pizza and mingling! For questions check out Menominee County Young Farmers on Facebook or contact Katelyn Thompson at (906) 753-2209.

MENOMINEE COUNTY YOUNG FARMER MEET AND GREET!

Come enjoy some pizza and network with other young farmers and those involved in agriculture!

April 28 th @ 7:00 p.m.
Belgiumtown Restaurant

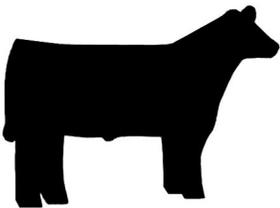
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<http://upfoodexchange.com/newsletter/>

Prepare for the Veterinarian Feed Directive

by Dr. James Averill, Michigan State Veterinarian

The use and distribution of antibiotics in animal agriculture is changing, and producers of all sizes need to begin preparing to adapt in the coming year.

The upcoming changes are being implemented by the Food and Drug Administration, who is responsible for regulating drugs used in both humans and animals. The FDA has expanded the list of feed-grade antibiotics classified as Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) drugs. Historically, a majority of feed-grade antibiotics used in or on animal feeds have been available to producers over-the-counter. However, the current expansion is moving all human medically important feed-grade antibiotics to the VFD drug process by Jan. 1, 2017.

In addition, the FDA has aligned with drug companies to voluntarily revise label claims. Sponsors are removing growth promotion and feed efficiency as allowable uses, effectively preventing veterinarians from writing VFD orders for these purposes.

So far, only a small number of antibiotics (tilmicosin, florfenicol, and avilamycin) have been restricted in feed-grade use under a VFD. While some industries, like swine, are very familiar with the VFD process because of the common use of Pulmotil® (tilmicosin), many producers have never had to use the VFD process to acquire antibiotics. With the expansion, this will soon change as nearly all sectors of animal agriculture will be affected, including honey bees and other "minor-use" species.

It is important to note not all antibiotics will be considered VFD drugs. The use of injectable antibiotics will not be affected. At this time, FDA has only moved antibiotics essential to human medicine and being fed to animals to VFD status. Also, as a part of the new FDA changes, water soluble antibiotics, which are important to human medicine, will now require a prescription from a veterinarian. This transition of water soluble drugs will include Aureomycin® (Chlortetracycline).

Producers must work with a licensed veterinarian with whom they have an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship in order to use feed containing a VFD drug. The

veterinarian's primary role is to advise and guide the producer (the client) in determining which medications are appropriate for their animals (the patients). This relationship must be established and recognized by the veterinarian prior to any VFD order being written.

Some other key components of the VFD process for the producer are:

- You can fill a VFD order at any mill, retailer or other establishment listed as a distributor with the FDA, a complete list can be found at www.michigan.gov/vfd.
- In order for feed mills to fill requests for feed with VFD drugs, a current VFD order must be on file.
- VFD orders cannot be written for longer than six months.
- The VFD drug feed must be fed out prior to the expiration date on the VFD order.

A copy of the VFD order must be kept by the producer for two years. If inspected by the FDA, producers must be able to provide VFD orders, when requested Labels of VFD drugs must have the following statement: "Caution: Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this VFD drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian."

The FDA is also maintaining a list of VFD drugs on their website. For the most up-to-date version, visit www.michigan.gov/vfd.

With more products requiring veterinary directives and less feed-grade antibiotics available through retail outlets, more producers will need to seek veterinarian guidance either for a VFD, or other products to use in their place. Please do your part to understand the VFD. You play a vital role in treating animals and protecting food safety.

A website resource has been created by MDARD to help producers and other stakeholders receive the most up-to-date information, www.michigan.gov/vfd.

Submitted by Renee Coyer, D.V.M.,
Thompson Veterinary Clinic

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Registration opens for summer 'Becoming an Outdoors Woman' program in the Upper Peninsula

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced today registration is open for this summer's "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" (BOW) program, which is set for June 3-5 in Marquette County. This will mark the 18th annual summer BOW gathering for women, 18 and older, who are seeking an opportunity to improve their outdoor skills in a relaxed, noncompetitive atmosphere.

"Becoming an Outdoors Woman is a program where each individual is encouraged to learn at her own pace," said Sharon Pitz, BOW program coordinator in Marquette. "The emphasis is on the enjoyment, fun and camaraderie of outdoor activities and sharing in the success of one another."

The summer BOW program is sponsored by the DNR and offers instruction in more than two dozen different types of activities, including kayaking, wilderness first aid and survival, lake and fly fishing, fly tying, field birding, geocaching, shooting sports, boating and mountain biking.

"Volunteer BOW instructors provide basic and advanced teaching that is tailored to each participant's individual ability, helping participants learn the basics in a short amount of time," Pitz said. The program also includes special evening activities during the weekend, including hikes, group bonfires and more.

BOW participants stay and take their classes at the Bay Cliff Health Camp, a universally accessible facility overlooking Lake Superior situated about 30 miles north of Marquette near Big Bay. Participants will be housed in a dorm-style facility with amenities including a sauna, pool, tennis courts, hiking and biking trails, along with easy access to northern hardwood forests and Lake



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"The summer program typically fills quickly, so early registration is encouraged," Pitz said.

The \$185 registration fee includes all food and lodging, as well as most equipment and supplies. The deadline for registration is May 6. A limited number of BOW Scholarships are available to help low-income participants with the cost of registration. The scholarship application deadline is May 2.

Class information and registration materials are available online at www.michigan.gov/bow. Registration fee payments may be made online through the [website's E-store](#).

Market Report

Choice Steers	\$120—\$134 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$105—\$120 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$55—\$65 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$165—\$190 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$65—\$75 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$150—\$290 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$200—\$300 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1400—\$2100/head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1200—\$2200/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$10.21	\$204.25	\$160-270
Soymeal	\$20.49	\$409.75	\$338-556
Oats	\$9.51	\$190.25	\$160-236
Barley	\$9.71	\$194.25	\$150-242
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			



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2016 Spring Feeder Cattle Sales

Note: All Sales are on Fridays @ 1 pm
May 13

- ◆ Pre-conditioning program strongly recommended
- ◆ All feeders must meet proper TB & ID requirements
- ◆ Request cattle be brought in the day before sale
- ◆ Bred cattle and breeding bulls may be sold at sales
 - ◆ Steers in question will be sold as bulls

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Auctioneer at (906) 786-0341

Items must be registered with the sale by May 4th to be included in advertising. Items can be dropped off at farm May 18-20 from 8 am – 4 pm.

Auctioneer – Appraiser
Col. Dan Samson
“Michigan Auctioneer Champion”
www.dansamsonauction.com

Updated malting barley website launched

by Ashley McFarland

Since 2013, the [Michigan State University Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center](#) (UPREC) has been conducting research and outreach on malting barley production and processing to support the growing craft beverage industry. Now, all of the publications, research reports, and online resources that have been acquired through that work can be found at one [MSU Extension](#) website: www.msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/malting_barley.

In addition to the production guide published in 2014, links to various seed sources have also been included on the website. Within the research page, variety trial results from the past three years are posted, along with the management trials conducted at UPREC in 2013 and 2015, including results from last year's [seeding rate](#) and [pre-harvest sprout](#) trials.

Resources can also be found for those involved in malt production. A current [map of malthouse ventures](#) is posted to the site as is the feasibility study that addressed the opportunities for craft malting in the state of Michigan. Links are also included for the [Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference](#) and other resource websites that support malting barley production and the craft malting community.

Updates and additions will be continually added to the website. To receive notifications when new content is added to the page, be sure to sign-up for the Malting Barley Listserv. To do so, email maltingbarley@list.msu.edu and in the subject heading, type Subscribe.

North Farm Short Course Schedule

These short courses are an in-depth exploration of farming fundamentals and best practices for diversified vegetable growers. Each five-hour learning session has an emphasis on hands-on activities so participants can practice what they learn, and includes the cost of materials for a project.

All workshops will be held on-site starting at 1 pm EST and will include a combination of experiential and classroom-based learning. Short courses qualify for education hours through the [MSU Extension Master Gardener program](#).

Registration is required for these events and can be accessed at www.msunorthfarm.org. Questions? Contact Abbey Palmer at palmerab@msu.edu or 906-439-5114.

Small Farm Systems – Sunday, June 26

Whole Farm Health – Sunday, August 28

Seed Saving – Sunday, October 9



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- Additional details available May 1st -

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If you do not wish to receive this publication, please contact Michelle at colema98@msu.edu or (906) 439-5114

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| April 25-28 | Bull soundness exams (throughout U.P.) |
| April 28 | Menominee County Young Farmer Meet and Greet, Belgiumtown Restaurant (7 pm CST) |
| May 3 | Bird Biosecurity Training, Pickford Library, 230 E Main St, Pickford (7 pm EST) |
| May 4 | Bird Biosecurity Training, UPREC, E3774 University Dr., Chatham (7 pm EST) |
| May 5 | Bird Biosecurity Training, Gogebic County--location TBA (6 pm CST) |
| May 6 | Bird Biosecurity Training, Houghton County MSU Extension, 1500 Birch St., Hancock, (8 pm EST) |
| May 21 | UPREC consignment auction fundraiser |
| June 21 | Dairy Calf Care School, Menominee MSUE Office, Stephenson (9:30-3:30 CDT) |
| June 22 | Dairy Calf Care School, UPREC, Chatham (9:30-3:30 EDT) |
| June 23 | Dairy Calf Care School, Rudyard Twp Hall, Rudyard (9:30-3:30 EDT) |
| June 26 | Small Farm Systems Short Course, The North Farm @ UPREC (1-6 pm) |
| July 30 | Together at the Farm: U.P. Local Food Conference, Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center |
| August 28 | Whole Farm Health Short Course, The North Farm @ UPREC (1-6 pm) |
| October 9 | Seed Saving, Short Course, The North Farm @ UPREC (1-6 pm) |

