



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

February 2016

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 20 Issue 2

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Think Spring – Plan Now for a School Garden Project

Now that we finally have snow on the ground, it is time to think spring and school gardens! Start by forming a team, gathering input, and developing a plan that works for how you intend to use your garden. There are many grants available to help start school garden projects but your planning phase should include thinking about how to maintain and fund the project beyond the start-up phase as this is where many projects struggle. This article includes some items for consideration as you plan your project.

Form a garden team to help with the planning process. Your team should include teachers and staff interested in using the garden or expected to help with maintenance. This would include school administration, teachers, food service staff and maintenance staff. You should also consider including parents and community volunteers that would have gardening experience or have an interest in supporting the project in other ways. Depending on the grade levels that will be involved this is also a great opportunity to engage youth in the planning process.

Determine how you plan to use your garden. Is it intended to be an exploration activity for young kids, connected to science lessons where experiments might be included, or do you plan on using a majority of what is grown for taste testing or cafeteria use. This is important as it may affect the layout of your garden, the supplies you need and training for items such as food safety. School gardens can easily serve multiple grades and multiple uses if proper planning occurs in the design stage.

Determine when you plan to use your garden. Will it be only during the school year? Do you have a summer program that could also utilize the garden? Is there a community group that could utilize the garden during the summer or volunteers that would help maintain it? There are ways to put a garden to bed properly during times it won't be used (winter or summer) to minimize weed build up and make it easier to get the garden back into production when you are ready to use it.

Understanding siting and construction considerations is critical in making the growing season as productive as possible. Items to consider include access to potable water, sun exposure, wind, and soil conditions. Raised beds and small hoop house structures are always an option as well. If looking at a hoop house structure you have the additional consideration of winter maintenance and snow removal.

Lastly, now that you have your plans in place for how you will use your garden, develop a budget for what is needed. In addition to any building materials you will want to include items such as seeds, harvesting tools, containers for plant starts.

Michelle Walk

U.P. Community Food Systems Educator, MSU Extension

2016 Agriculture & Food Symposium

Tools for Resilience

The third annual RAIN Agriculture & Food Symposium will be held at the Bruce Station Community Hall - Bruce Mines, ON
Friday, February 5th and Saturday, February 6th, 2016.

This year's symposium will focus on three distinct areas related to longevity and resilience on and within your farm:

- Succession Planning and budgeting with Len Davies
- Testing Feasibility of New Products: Malted Barley with Michigan State University's (MSU) Ashley McFarland
- Season Extension Techniques and Technologies with MSU's Collin Thompson



MSU Extension Field Crops Webinar Series

There is a convenient new way to access the latest in field crops information from Michigan State University Extension. MSUE will offer a series of six online programs highlighting field crop production and pest management on Monday evenings from February 22nd through March 28th, 2016. Participants will learn how to enhance their corn, soybean, small grain and forage production systems in the coming season, and have an opportunity to ask questions of MSU agriculture experts.

The live webinar presentations will run 7:00-8:00 PM EST each Monday evening. One MDARD Pesticide Recertification Credit will be available through each webinar for application to one of the following categories: Private Core, Commercial Core or Field

Crops. Participants can view the programs independently online. However, pre-registration is required for all participants at a cost of \$15.00 for the full series of six webinars or \$5.00 per individual webinar session.

Visit:

events.anr.msu.edu/FieldCropsWebinarSeries2016/
to register and access connection information.

Contact James DeDecker at (989) 734-2168 or dedecke5@msu.edu for more information, or by February 15th, 2016 to request accommodations for persons with disabilities. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.

Western U.P. meetings planned to explain revised FSA programs

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) are collaborating with MSU Extension to offer three western U.P. meetings. These meetings will focus on the new CRP-Grasslands program which took the place of the old grasslands program. FSA staff will describe the program changes, including increased payments, and take questions. NRCS grazing plans and additional programs will also be discussed. Results from the low-input hay improvement 2015 demonstration on the Berkompas farm in Rudyard will be presented by MSU Extension.

Other topics will be touched on, including NAP (noninsured crop disaster assistance program – catastrophe coverage insurance when private insurance is not available), LIP (livestock indemnity program – livestock disaster payments due to weather), and a little bit about agricultural risk coverage (ARC) and price loss coverage (PLC).

Please register by calling the Alger County MSU Extension office at 906-387-2530 or email at isleibj@anr.msu.edu. There is no charge for this program.

The following meetings are scheduled:

Tuesday, February 23, 2016
1:00 – 3:00 pm Eastern Time
Houghton County MSU Extension Office
1500 Birch Street, Hancock, MI
Presenters: Susan Devoe, FSA, Allison George, NRCS and Jim Isleib, MSU Extension

Thursday, February 25, 2016
1:00 – 3:00pm Eastern Time
Bergland Township Fire Hall
101 Pine Street, Bergland, MI
Presenters: Susan Devoe, FSA, Allison George, NRCS and Jim Isleib, MSU Extension

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
1:00 – 3:00pm Central Time
Menominee County MSU Extension Office
S904 U.S. Highway 41, Stephenson, MI
Presenters: Susan Devoe, FSA, Craig Aho, NRCS and Jim Isleib, MSU Extension

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10 am—2 pm
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Breeding Soundness Exams for Bulls

by Frank Wardynski

Annually, about 20% of bulls do not pass breeding soundness exams. 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. With current prices for feeder calves and pregnant cows, open cows will be very costly.

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 dates for testing across the Upper Peninsula are April 25-28. To schedule an appointment, contact Frank Wardynski, Ruminant Extension Educator with Michigan State University at wardynsk@anr.msu.edu or 906-884-4386.

2ND ANNUAL GREAT LAKES HOP AND BARLEY CONFERENCE

MARCH 16-17, 2016

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www.events.anr.msu.edu/hopandbarley16



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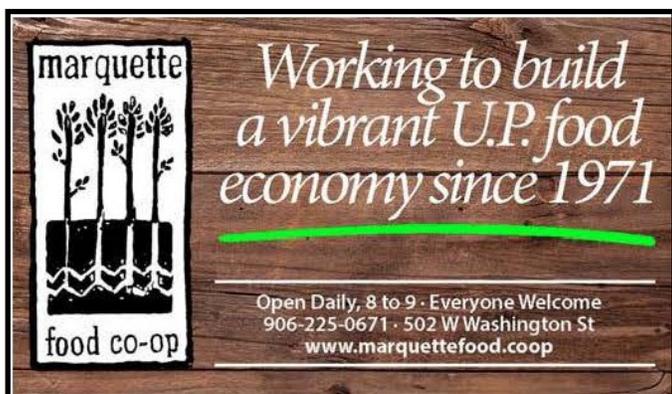
Beekeeping Workshops to be held in western UP

by Frank Wardynski

Ontonagon County Michigan State University Extension is once again teaming up with Les McBean, owner of White Birch Apiary in Bruce Crossing, to offer two Backyard Beekeeping Workshops.

Beginning Backyard Beekeeping workshop, Saturday, March 12th at the Ewen-Trout School, 144 Airport Road, Ewen, 10 am to 4:30 pm EST. Registration is \$25 for adults; \$15 for youth 12-18 years old includes lunch. Contact the Ontonagon County MSU Extension at 906-884-4386 or email msue66@msu.edu.

Advanced Backyard Beekeeping workshop, Saturday, March 26th, 10 am to 4:30 pm EDT, Ewen-Trout Creek School, 144 Airport Road, Ewen. Registration is \$25 for adults; \$15 for youth 12-18 years old includes lunch. Contact the Ontonagon County MSU Extension office at 906-884-4386 or email msue66@msu.edu.



Market Report

Choice Steers	\$118-\$125 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$108-\$113 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$54-\$57 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$140-\$160 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$60-\$70 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$100-\$230 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$120-\$170 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1700 - \$2500/head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1700 - \$2500/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$9.65	\$193.00	\$150-270
Soymeal	\$20.51	\$410.25	\$328-556
Oats	\$9.45	\$189.00	\$160-236
Barley	\$9.84	\$196.75	\$160-242
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

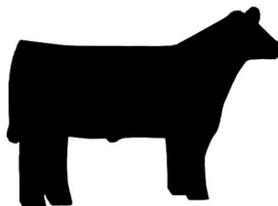
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Beef Cow-calf Production Meeting

The MSUE beef team will be presenting beef meetings across the UP. Extension educators Frank Wardynski and Katelyn Thompson will cover topics related to herd health and preconditioning calves to include one vs two shot vaccination programs, vaccinating the cow herd, deworming practices, value of preconditioning, weaning management. Sessions will start at 6:00 EST and last until about 8:30.

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| February 2 | Bay College in Escanaba |
| February 3 | Rudyard Township Hall |
| February 4 | Twillies in Bruce Crossing |

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Beginning farmer webinar series continues

Come check out the following two-hour evening programs that provide valuable start-up information on farming topics. For program details and registration, visit <http://events.anr.msu.edu/BegFrMrWeb2016/>. February and March webinar topics include:

- Feb. 1 An introduction to edible chestnut production
- Feb. 3 The Food Safety Modernization Act: What you need to do
- Feb. 8 Growing raspberries in high tunnels
- Feb. 10 New crops for new customers
- Feb. 15 Native bees for pollination
- Feb. 17 Integrated pest management resources at MSU
- Feb. 24 Wheat agronomy
- Mar 2 Growing cider apples
- Mar 9 Biosecurity: Protecting farm animal health
- Mar 16 Christmas trees
- Mar 23 Getting your land ready to grow organically—certified or not
- Mar 30 Meat goats

Ag For Tomorrow Conference Tuesday, March 8th Bay College Escanaba

See insert for registration details!

Clare County Livestock Auctions 2016 Feeder Cattle Sales

All cattle weighed at sale time. Accepting cattle on Wednesday all day. Wednesday cattle will be fed and watered!

Colored and Holstein steers, heifers, calves
(some pre-conditioned)

Sales on Thursday and start at 1:00 pm
March 17th
April 14th • May 5th

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Sale Barn (989) 386-9256

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Review session and exams for state certified pesticide applicators in Stephenson

Date: February 3, 2016

Location: Menominee County MSU Extension Office, Stephenson, MI

Review session: 8:30am – 12:30pm Central Time

State exams: 1:00 pm Central Time

This 4-hour review is intended to help prepare for the State of Michigan commercial and private pesticide applicator certification exams. 4 re-certification credits toward renewal of current State of Michigan Pesticide Applicator Certification is available for private applicators and commercial applicator 'core' category. The program will consist of a review of example exam questions from the study manuals. It is strongly suggested that participants acquire copies of the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual and study it thoroughly before the exam. If seeking commercial certification or re-certification, the study manual for the category(s) desired should also be acquired and studied. This program will cover only 'core' manual material, no commercial categories.

A State of Michigan official will offer exam opportunity after the review is completed. If you plan to take an exam, register at www.michigan.gov/pestexam and be prepared to pay \$50

for the private exam and \$75 for the commercial exam (including any number of categories) by check payable to "State of Michigan". A waiver from the State of Michigan is offered to honorably discharged veterans seeking private pesticide applicator certification. You must provide a copy of your veteran's federal form DD-214 that indicates honorable discharge status along with your application.

Lunch will not be provided. A 1/2 hour break is scheduled between the review and the exams for participants to have lunch. If taking an exam, bring your own lunch, or plan for a very quick lunch break.

A \$10 fee, payable at the door, is required for the review. If paying by check, make check out to "Michigan State University Extension". This fee covers program costs and refreshments. (Note: This is a separate fee from the State of Michigan exam fee).

The core manual and other study materials can be purchased on-line at http://shop.msu.edu/category_s/463.htm or ordered through your local county MSU Extension office.

For more information, contact Jim Isleib, MSU Extension, at 906-387-2530 or isleibj@anr.msu.edu.

Additional information regarding registration for State of Michigan pesticide applicator exams and additional training programs for pesticide applicators is available on the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development website at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/>



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john.rappette@yahoo.com



Field crop producers:

Are you prepared for the

2016 growing season?

Register for the Field Crops Webinar Series
held on February 22–March 28

Michigan Poultry Exhibition and Swap Meet Ban Lifted

Reprinted with permission from Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

LANSING – Today, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development lifted the statewide ban on poultry exhibitions. MDARD implemented the ban as a precautionary measure in June 2015 in response to the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak happening across the U.S.

MDARD evaluated the disease risk and current national status and decided it's appropriate to lift the ban on poultry exhibitions. MDARD continues to monitor the national HPAI situation and may reinstate the poultry exhibition ban if the disease re-emerges. Although not limited to the following situations, these are some specific situations in which MDARD would consider reinstating the ban:

1. 1. Detection of HPAI in a wild bird in the Mississippi flyway.
2. 2. Detection of HPAI in domestic flocks in states surrounding Michigan or nearby areas of Canada.
3. 3. Cases of HPAI in wild or domestic birds in other flyways, if the cases appear to be spreading.

The ban prevented the commingling of birds from different locations, including exhibitions, swap meets, petting zoos at fairs, game bird and waterfowl fair displays, and Miracle of Life exhibits. MDARD partnered with Michigan State University Extension 4-H, Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, and other partners to inform youth of the announcement and identify ways to engage Michigan's youth poultry exhibitors and allow them to showcase their knowledge and experience.

"I would like to thank MSU Extension and our youth leaders who created a meaningful educational experience out of an unfortunate situation," said Dr. James Averill, MDARD's State Veterinarian. "Their partnership was invaluable in protecting all of Michigan's poultry flocks statewide from this devastating disease."

Concern for the possibility of a return of HPAI in the U.S still remains. Generally, heightened findings of influenza viruses in wild birds will begin in winter and go through spring as birds come in and migrate south, and cold weather helps keep the virus alive. The last case of HPAI in domestic birds was documented in June; however, the domestic population is always at risk of influenza infection from wild waterfowl which may spread the virus in their droppings. MDARD continues to encourage poultry owners to practice proper biosecurity and contact their local veterinarian if they have sick birds. However, if a flock is experiencing severe illness or multiple death losses, contact MDARD at 800-292-3939 or for after-hours emergencies call 517-373-0440.

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

V.O.I.C.E.:
**Veterinarians Organizing Information for
Client Education**

Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center

The UPREC North Farm welcomes new staff!

In December, Abbey Palmer was hired on as the North Farm Education Coordinator

"Eating is an agricultural act," says Wendell Berry. Abbey has been teaching people about the connections between food, health, and local economies for the past five years. As education coordinator at the North Farm, she works with people of all ages who are curious about where their food comes from and want to learn more about how it is produced. She is a curator for the Lexicon of Sustainability and a seed saver in the Community Seed Resource Program for Seed Savers Exchange. Abbey returned to the U.P. in 2010 after the Iowa Writers' Workshop and started sharecropping in order to put down money on land of her own. She lives off the grid in a log cabin with a wood cookstove, likes to read and write, and loves to eat good food in good company.



SAVE THE DATE:
UPREC Consignment Auction
Saturday, May 21st
Stay tuned for details!

MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center
<http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprec>

Please follow us on Facebook to receive daily updates of Farm activity – www.facebook.com/MSU.UPREC

2015 Freshpack Potato Variety Trial

VanDamme Farms, Delta County, MI

Harvest 30-Sep-15
125 Days
DD, Base 40⁶ 2658

LINE	CWT/A		PERCENT OF TOTAL ¹					RAW TUBER QUALITY ² (%)				COMMON SCAB RATING ³			VINE MATURETY ⁵	COMMENTS
	US#1	TOTAL	US#1	Bs	As	OV	PO	SP-GR	HH	VD	IBS	BC	RATING ³	VIGOR ⁴		
MST386-1P	530	568	93	1	40	53	6	1.084	0	0	0	0	0.0	4.0	4.0	
ND7132-1R	475	496	96	2	61	35	2	1.069	0	10	0	0	0.0	3.5	3.5	
Dark Red Norland	439	467	94	5	94	0	1	1.066	0	0	0	0	0.0	4.5	2.0	
Merlot	430	495	87	10	86	1	3	1.089	0	0	0	0	0.0	3.0	4.5	
Dakota Ruby	405	447	90	8	89	1	2	1.075	0	0	0	0	0.0	3.5	3.0	
ND8002-1R	401	417	96	2	76	20	2	1.069	0	0	0	0	0.0	4.0	3.0	
Caribou Russet (AF3362-1Rus)	485	532	91	7	59	32	2	1.084	0	20	10	0	0.0	4.0	4.0	
Mountain Gem Russet (A03158-2TERus)	463	518	90	7	50	40	3	1.083	0	0	0	0	1.0	4.0	4.0	
W9433-1Rus	455	512	88	5	45	43	7	1.086	0	10	0	0	0.0	4.0	4.0	
Russet Norkotan	434	438	99	1	78	21	0	1.077	0	0	0	0	0.0	3.5	2.5	
CO05068-1Rus	387	450	86	14	78	8	0	1.084	10	0	0	0	0.0	3.5	4.5	
Reville Russet (ATX91137-1Rus)	366	412	88	9	57	31	3	1.074	0	0	0	0	0.0	3.5	4.0	
CO05175-1Rus	364	461	79	9	47	32	12	1.076	0	0	0	0	0.0	3.0	5.0	
Silverton Russet	308	371	83	17	63	20	0	1.079	0	20	0	0	0.0	4.0	4.0	
AF4124-7Rus	302	349	87	9	54	33	4	1.086	0	10	0	0	0.0	4.0	3.0	
ND8068-5Rus	274	339	81	16	74	7	3	1.091	0	20	0	0	0.0	4.5	2.0	
AC05039-2Rus	251	311	81	19	68	13	0	1.088	0	0	0	0	0.0	3.5	2.0	
MSS576-5SPL	514	544	95	5	81	14	0	1.073	0	0	0	0	0.0	4.5	3.5	
MSS487-2	483	510	95	4	80	15	1	1.075	0	0	0	0	0.0	4.0	4.0	
MSU161-1	417	459	91	4	68	23	5	1.075	0	0	0	0	1.0	3.5	4.0	
Reba	373	454	82	16	62	20	2	1.079	0	0	0	0	0.0	3.5	4.0	
VC1009-1Y	630	654	97	3	81	16	0	1.088	0	0	0	0	0.0	4.0	4.5	
MSV093-1Y	523	540	96	4	92	4	0	1.079	0	0	0	0	0.0	4.0	4.5	
Molli	480	525	92	6	83	9	2	1.079	0	0	0	0	0.0	4.5	3.5	
A02267-1Y	448	488	92	5	81	11	3	1.070	0	0	0	0	0.0	4.0	4.0	
Oneida Gold	346	376	92	8	91	1	0	1.083	0	0	0	0	0.0	4.0	2.5	
Soraya	318	329	95	3	55	42	2	1.063	0	0	0	0	0.0	3.5	4.0	
CO05037-3Y	271	335	81	18	80	1	1	1.075	0	0	0	0	0.0	4.0	2.5	
MEAN	413	457	90	8	70	19	2	1.079	0	2	0	0	0.1	3.8	3.6	tr = trace, sl = slight, N/A = not applicable SED = stem end defect, gc = growth crack

¹TUBER QUALITY (percentage of tubers out of 10)
 HH: Hollow Heart
 VD: Vascular Discoloration
 IBS: Internal Brown Spot
 BC: Brown Center

²TUBER QUALITY (percentage of tubers out of 10)
 HH: Hollow Heart
 VD: Vascular Discoloration
 IBS: Internal Brown Spot
 BC: Brown Center

³COMMON SCAB RATING
 0.0: Complete absence of surface or pitted lesions
 1.0: Presence of surface lesions

⁴VINE VIGOR RATING
 Date: 07-Jul-15
 Ratings: 1 - 5
 1: Slow Emergence
 5: Early Emergence (vigorous vine, some flowering)

⁵VINE MATURETY RATING
 Date: 26-Aug-15
 Ratings: 1 - 5
 1: Early (vines completely dead)
 5: Late (vigorous vine, some flowering)

⁶MAVN STATION: Escanaba
 Planting to Vine Kill

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Calendar of Events

January 29-30	North Michigan Small Farm Conference, Acme, Michigan
February 2	Beef cow-calf production meeting, Bay College, Escanaba (6 pm EST)
February 3	Beef cow-calf production meeting, Rudyard Township Hall (6 pm EST)
February 3	Pesticide applicator training session and exams, Menominee Co. Extension, Stephenson
February 4	Beef cow-calf production meeting, Twillies, Bruce Crossing (6 pm EST)
February 5-6	RAIN Agriculture and Food Symposium, Bruce Station Community Hall - Bruce Mines, ON
February 18	Young Farmer Meeting, Menominee County
February 23	FSA Programs meeting, Houghton County MSU Extension Office (1-3:00 pm EST)
February 25	FSA Programs meeting, Bergland Township Fire Hall (1-3:00 pm EST)
March 1	FSA Programs meeting, Menominee County MSU Extension Office (1-3:00 pm CST)
March 3	Energy Conservation Program, Stephenson
March 8	Ag For Tomorrow Conference, Bay College, Escanaba
March 14	Beef Cattle Selection Meeting, Rudyard Township Hall (6-8:30 EST)
March 15	Key Success Factors for Dairy Farm Profitability, Rudyard
March 12	Beginning Backyard Beekeeping Workshop, Ewen-Trout School (10 am to 4:30 pm EST)
March 16-17	Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference, Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, Michigan
March 21	Beef Cattle Selection Meeting, Feedmill Café in Chassell (6-8:30 EST)
March 22	Pesticide applicator training session and exams, Escanaba
March 22	Beef Cattle Selection Meeting, Bay College, Escanaba (6-8:30 EST)
April 25-28	Bull soundness exams (throughout U.P.)
May 21	UPREC consignment auction fundraiser

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*