I’ve been trying to make hay, with little success, since June 10th. I’ve cut a few ruts trying to get hay made. We’ve had plenty of rain in the western U.P. and I’ve heard reports from south central U.P. that they could use some rain. I tweeted last week “Erratic weather is normal, pray that it’s only inconvenient and not catastrophically life changing.” Sure we get weather here in the U.P. that’s less than desirable; snow, rain, drought, but we rarely experience weather that is life changing. When I think of the families of those affected by tornados in Oklahoma or the hurricanes of recent years in the south or New Jersey, I’m thankful for our “normal” U.P. weather.

While the weather here in the U.P. may not be as severe as other areas of the country, it is such an important aspect of farming no matter where you live. Weather can be so frustrating because it is so difficult to harvest high quality, high yield crops if the weather won’t cooperate. That’s why it’s so important to have a plan. What are we going to do if there is a drought this summer, or too much rain. The list of adverse weather conditions that can affect crops is long. We know, for example, that in the next several years that drought is going to occur. Do you have a plan to deal with those conditions? It may be as simple as ensuring carry over forage in good years, but we should have a plan.

I received many phone calls this spring and summer about sick pigs in the western and central U.P. With fair season approaching, taking precautions not to take disease back to the farm is critical, regardless of the species you exhibit. In this edition, I have asked Beth Ferry, MSUE Pork Educator to write an article to assist with keeping your livestock protected and exhibitor’s responsibility to ensure that their own livestock are healthy going to show. There is much more comprehensive information available. If you’re interested, please contact me for help finding it.

The UP Research and Extension Center Field Day is scheduled for July 23, and the agenda is listed in this edition (page 2). The field day is free to participants, including a complimentary lunch provided by HiawathaLand Farm Bureau. Many of the topics will be tied into the new direction of the Center. Special note, the afternoon will incorporate two separate educational sessions to include one directed at four season farming in the U.P. with produce, and the other directed towards integrated crop and livestock systems. Also that day, there will be a sheep and goat day. The sheep and goat day will start at the center in the morning covering forage, land, predator control and marketing challenges for sheep and goat production. After the Farm Bureau luncheon, the afternoon session will move to Log Cabin Livestock, Ben and Denise Bartlett, located only a short distance from the station. Information regarding registration and payment for the sheep and goat day are can be found inside the newsletter (page 2). It is going to be exciting to see the new focus of the station begin to take unfold. I strongly encourage the agriculture community to come out and support the station with a strong attendance.

~Frank
MARKET REPORT (06/20/13)
By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Market Ready Prices
Choice Steers $105-$130 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers $100-$117 per 100 lbs.
Hogs $67-$76 per 100 lbs.
Lambs $100-$130 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows $60-$80 per 100 lbs.
Calves $95-$150 per 100 lbs.
Goats $100-$120 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals
Grade Holstein cows $1200 - 1600 per head
Grade Holstein bred heifers $1000 - 1400 per head

Feed Prices across the U.P. (06/20/13)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Avg. $/cwt</th>
<th>Avg. $/ton</th>
<th>Price Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>$18.15</td>
<td>$363.00</td>
<td>$290 - $436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soymeal</td>
<td>$29.95</td>
<td>$599.00</td>
<td>$530 - $668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>$19.23</td>
<td>$384.50</td>
<td>$265 - $504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>$16.40</td>
<td>$328.00</td>
<td>$260 - $396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots

UP Research and Extension Center Field Day
Tuesday, July 23rd 10 AM – 3 PM

Agenda

10:15 AM Opening remarks – Paul Naasz and Ashley McFarland
(overview of new farm vision)

10:30 AM Ignite presentations (15 minute rotations)
- Beef cattle – Jason Rowntree
- Malting barley trials, disease and pest management
  – Chris Kapp and Jim Isleib
- New soil analysis methods – Ashley McFarland
- Future opportunities at North Farm (introduction)
  – Matt Raven

11:30 AM Biofuel demonstration – Dennis Pennington

Noon Lunch by Farm Bureau

12:30 PM Keynote address: Dr. Baker

1:00 PM Afternoon session

Track 1: The future of Four Season Farming at UPREC
- Hoophouse design and build
  – John Biernbaum
- Perpetual Produce – John Biernbaum
- Student farm introduction – Matt Raven
- UP Food Exchange – Michelle Walk

Track 2: Integrating Crop and Livestock systems at UPREC
- Background of the Red Angus herd
  – Jason Rowntree
- Utilizing forage quality in different beef cattle production scenarios
  – Frank Wardynski
- Forage variety selection for the UP
  – Kim Cassida
- Building soil health using cropping systems
  – Jim Isleib

3:00 PM Closing

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: 4 year old Ram, wether sire type, RRNN, excellent blood line. Maple Lane Lambs, Bob St. John
Bark River, MI Contact: 906 466 2535
Managing for Today and Tomorrow, a new Annie’s Program
By: Warren Schauer, Michigan State University Extension

Creating a business and transition plan to make sure a farm continues as a productive, agricultural business can be challenging. Farm women can have a key role in successful farm transitions. Managing for Today and Tomorrow, a new Annie’s Project course for women, is divided into the following planning areas:

- Succession Planning - Transferring knowledge, skills, labor, management, control and ownership between generations.
- Business Planning - Developing goals, strategies and actions that form a road map to business growth.
- Estate Planning - Managing an individual’s asset base in one’s lifetime, at death or after death.
- Retirement Planning - Designing an enjoyable and productive time in life.

Women involved in agriculture wanting to learn more about these topics will benefit from this new Annie’s Program. Extension educators and local professionals will teach the sessions on business, estate, retirement and succession planning. Besides brief presentations, there will be discussions based on participant questions and follow-up activities for family members to complete at home. This is an opportunity for farm women to meet with others who share similar issues and concerns. A small class size will make it comfortable for everyone to speak up and have questions answered.

“Managing for Today and Tomorrow,” program will be offered in the Bark River/Harris area on five Wednesday evenings, July 24, 31 and August 7, 21, & 28, meeting from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Eastern Time/ 4:30 – 8 p.m. Central Time. The cost is $50 per person, which includes a 300-page workbook with fact sheets, hands-on activities, and presentations. The fee also includes meals and refreshments. Course size is limited, and registration is due by July 17.

This program is supported by Farm Credit Services, Hannahville Youth Services, and the USDA. For more information contact or to register send email to Warren Schauer, Michigan State University Extension, (schauer@msu.edu) or call/leave message for Warren at the MSU Extension office in Menominee County at 906-753-2209.

34th Annual Ag Expo, July 16-18 at Michigan State University

EAST LANSING, Mich.– Ag Expo, Michigan’s largest outdoor farm show, returns to the Michigan State University (MSU) campus July 16-18 for the 34th time, bringing a variety of educational and commercial activities and exhibits to the state’s agricultural community as well as to homeowners, families and anyone who wants to know more about agriculture. This year, Ag Expo will bring participants the latest technology in agricultural production, current research findings from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) faculty, and a full schedule of demonstrations and educational sessions to help manage farms and businesses at their best.

“Ag Expo is one of those events that really pulls people in from all over the state,” said CANR Dean Fred Poston. “I’m looking forward to getting back there. There’s something for everyone at Ag Expo, from the novice grower to the experienced farmer.”

Across the expo grounds, nearly 250 exhibitors will feature products and services that help Michigan agricultural producers continue to succeed. Demonstrations on equine pastures, sprayers, tillage, mortality composting and biodiesel processing will be available. Visitors can test drive wheel loaders, telehandlers and skid steers. Wheelchair users can test drive chairs in tough terrain and learn about customized tools to make jobs around the farm easier. Youth can try their hand at a simulated commodities marketing display in the CANR tent. MI-Alpaca will be on hand to demonstrate the spinning and skirting of alpaca fleece. Additionally, this year, senior CANR leaders will provide an update on college activities.

“We take great pride in Ag Expo,” Poston said. “It’s a great place to showcase the work that’s being done in our college, MSU Extension and AgBioResearch. We are looking forward to connecting with our alumni, stakeholders and friends throughout the week of Expo.”

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 16 and 17, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 18. Admission to the grounds and parking at Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Road are free.

For more information about Ag Expo, call 800-366-7055 or visit www.agexpo.msu.edu.

The MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources sponsors Ag Expo.
Select and use herbicides without harming the environment
Fifteen steps to safely apply herbicides.
By Christina Curell, Michigan State University Extension

Herbicides are a necessary tool that many farms utilize for pest control. The challenge that farms face in using these chemicals is the effect they may have on the environment. Michigan State University Extension recommends that farms consider the following steps when choosing and applying herbicides:

- **Select herbicides carefully.** Remember, herbicides that are highly soluble, relatively stable and not readily adsorbed to soil tend to be the most likely to leach. Choose herbicides with the least potential for leaching into groundwater or for runoff into surface water. Read labels carefully and consult a specialist from a MSU Extension office or your pesticide dealer, if necessary.

- **Herbicides containing atrazine** may not be mixed or loaded within 50 feet of perennial or intermittent streams, rivers, lakes or reservoirs. These herbicides cannot be applied within 66 feet of the points where field surface water runoff enters perennial or intermittent streams and rivers or within 200 feet of lakes or reservoirs. These herbicides can be applied to HEL (highly erodible land) acres only if the 66-foot buffer or setback from runoff points is planted to a crop or seeded with grass.

- **Herbicides with Label Advisory Statements.** Refer to the herbicide label for advisory statements regarding groundwater and surface water protection requirements. All applications must be made in compliance with labeled instructions.

- **Follow label directions.** The label carries crucial information about the proper rate, timing and placement of the herbicide.

- **Reduce herbicide application rates.** Use the lowest rate of the herbicide that provides adequate weed control. Band applications of preemergence herbicides reduce the potential of herbicides to leach or run off by 50 percent or more.

- **Incorporate pesticides.** On fields not considered highly erodible, incorporation of pesticides can be used to reduce runoff by moving some of the pesticide below the soil surface away from overland water flow. Incorporation of herbicides will not be compatible with surface residue requirements in some fields.

- **Calibrate accurately.** Equipment should be calibrated carefully and often. During calibration, check the equipment for leaks and malfunctions. Contact your local MSU Extension educator for assistance.

- **Measure accurately.** Concentrates need to be carefully measured before they are placed into the spray tank. Do not “add a little extra” to ensure the herbicide will do a better job. Such practices only increase the likelihood of injury to the treated crop, the cost of pest control, and the chance of groundwater and surface water contamination.

- **Avoid back-siphoning.** The end of the fill hose should remain above the water level in the spray tank at all times to prevent back-siphoning of chemicals into the water supply. Use an anti-backflow device when siphoning water directly from a well, pond or stream. These practices also reduce the likelihood of the hose becoming contaminated with herbicides.

- **Consider weather and irrigation.** If you suspect heavy or sustained rain, delay applying herbicides. Control the quantity of irrigation to minimize the potential for herbicide leaching and runoff.

- **Avoid spray drift and volatilization.** Preemergence herbicide applications have the greatest potential for volatilization and runoff.

- **Clean up spills.** Try to avoid spills in the first place. When they do occur, control, contain and clean them up quickly with an absorbent material such as cat litter. Chemicals spilled near wells and sinkholes can move directly and rapidly into groundwater. Chemicals spilled near ditches, streams or lakes can move rapidly into surface water.

- **Change the location of mixing areas.** Mix and load pesticides on an impervious pad, if possible. If mixing is done in the field, change the location of the mixing area regularly. Do not mix herbicides adjacent to the water source and do not let the water run inadvertently on the soil near the mixing area. This will increase herbicide leaching and/or runoff.

- **Dispose of wastes properly.** All herbicide wastes must be disposed of in accordance with local, state and federal laws. Triple-rinse containers. Pour the rinsate into the spray tank for use in treating the site or the crop. Do not pour rinsate on the soil, particularly repeatedly in the same location. This will saturate the soil and increase the potential for herbicide leaching.

**Store herbicides away from water sources.** Herbicide storage facilities should be situated away from wells, cisterns, springs and other water sources. Michigan’s water resources currently provide a vast supply of clean water for agriculture, homes and industry. They can ensure high water quality for future needs only if they are protected now. Be sure to understand how your activities, including herbicide usage, can affect them.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit [http://www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu). To contact an expert in your area, visit [http://expert.msue.msu.edu](http://expert.msue.msu.edu), or call 888-MSUE4MI

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**Concerned about soil compaction? Stick a shovel in it!**

The recent wet spring has growers concerned about soil compaction. Here’s an easy method to tell if your soil is compacted and how to correct it.

By Marilyn Thelen, Michigan State University Extension

For Mid-Michigan, the spring of 2013 was long and wet. Precipitation in a band stretching from Lake Michigan through the Thumb, saturated soils across central Michigan for much of the planting season and this trend has continued well into June. As a result, fields may have had work done before soil conditions were right. This has many farmers concerned about soil compaction in those fields.

Soil compaction occurs when equipment is driven on soils that are too wet. While it is more common in fine-textured soils, it can also occur in coarse-textured soils. Soil compaction will decrease root penetration of that soil, reduce the air and water holding capacity and decrease the ability for water to move through the compacted layer. All of these factors can impact a plant’s ability to thrive. The impact of soil compaction can be felt for years and can rob as much as 10 to 20 percent of yield if not corrected.

An easy way to see if a soil is compacted is to stick a shovel in it, or a soil probe, a tile rod or even a penetrometer. With moist soil conditions, the instrument will move through the soil profile until it reaches the compaction layer. This layer may be at 3 inches, 7 inches or deeper. It may correlate with depth of a tillage operation or tire traffic.

Soil compaction can impact the entire field, or it may be present only in a localized area. The important point is to locate the areas where compaction has occurred and determine the depth of the compaction layer.

The good news is soil compaction can be corrected. Producers can chisel plow or subsoil affected areas to break up the compacted layer. Studies have shown that tilling 2 inches below the compacted layer is affective in breaking up the hard-pan. Going deeper does not provide additional benefit.

Carry a shovel and observe crop growth, and when there is concern, stick a shovel in it. This is an easy way to diagnose a problem that could linger for years if not corrected.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit [http://www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu). To contact an expert in your area, visit [http://expert.msue.msu.edu](http://expert.msue.msu.edu), or call 888-MSUE4MI.
Youth Exhibition Pigs at Shows and County Fairs Should Focus on Keeping Their Animals Healthy

By: Beth Ferry, MSU Extension Educator

Using simple biosecurity practices will help prevent the spread of disease to your farm and animals

In Michigan, the County Fair season is quickly approaching and youth are preparing their livestock projects for exhibition. In the United States over 1 million pigs are either bred for exhibition pigs or shown at different venues. This area of the pork industry has an important role in health management; keeping pigs healthy and protecting them from disease outbreaks, which will also help to protect the commercial industry from the spread of disease. By caring for the health of your animals using proper production practices, you give them proper care and work to produce a product that is safe, healthy and wholesome for the consumer. Managing the health of your swine herd or project can be a tough job, but by using biosecurity practices for your farm, you can be proactive in caring for your animals.

Biosecurity is a combination of different production practices and methods that can be used on your farm to protect a pig population against the introduction and spread of disease. This means that you will be using different measures to keep your animals as healthy as possible, keeping germs, microbes and different diseases from infecting your pigs and spreading throughout the area. By following a few simple biosecurity guidelines you create the first line of defense against disease, prevention.

It is important for producers with show and exhibition pigs to understand how disease is spread so that they can minimize the exposure to their pigs. Direct and indirect contact are methods in which disease can move from one area or animal to another. Direct contact includes nose-to-nose contact with other animals. Although nose-to-nose contact with other pigs at swine shows cannot be prevented it is important to make sure that your pigs are healthy and free from disease when they are exposed to other animals. If your animal has a fever, severe cough or appears to be under the weather, you will want to consider leaving this animal at the farm. If you are returning home from such an event, the best practice is to isolate these pigs from other animals on the farm by providing a space that limits contact between the animals.

This helps protect the animals on the farm from anything that the pigs at the show were exposed to.

Disease can also be spread indirectly on people, clothing or things (fomites). When visiting other swine or exhibitions you can transfer disease on your person or clothing. Change your clothing and wash your hands when returning home and before contact with your animals. Manure is also a vector of disease and boots or footwear should also be changed after being in an area with other livestock. The foot mats in your vehicle can also harbor disease after being exposed to manure. Having clean footwear for the inside of your vehicle can help reduce the spread of disease to your farm or other areas.

Equipment and trailers used at or for swine shows can also transfer disease. Items, such as feed pans, waterers, shovels and show equipment should be cleaned and disinfected upon returning home. All organic matter and manure should be removed from the item when washed. A simple disinfectant is a 6% bleach solution, which when mixed with water in a 1 part bleach, 32 parts water ratio will kill most viruses. Trailers used to haul livestock to and from shows should also be cleaned and disinfected. Trailers should also be allowed to completely dry before hauling any other animals to help reduce the chance of infection. Exposure to sunlight will also kill some viruses, however thoroughly cleaning, disinfecting and allowing for dry time is the preferred biosecurity practice.

As a pork producer you have a responsibility to the swine industry to help decrease the spread of disease by employing good production practices. Not only can the health of your herd affect your farm, you can spread disease to other pork producers in the area. If you are experiencing a disease outbreak, it is important for you to manage this disease risk and minimize the spread to other farms. This can be done by utilizing biosecurity practices and working with a veterinarian in case a disease outbreak occurs.

For more information on ways to keep your exhibition pig healthy and decrease the spread of disease, contact your local Michigan State University Extension office or Beth Ferry, MSUE – Pork Educator, franzeli@msu.edu or 269-445-4438.


**County Committee (COC) Elections**

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions. The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through Aug. 1, 2013. For more information contact your local FSA office.

**Sodbuster Regulations**

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production.

**Direct and Guaranteed Loans**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask you lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you’ve had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of 41,302,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness $1,602,000.

**Farm 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 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 persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; (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.

**DCP Cropland Method** — The division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP 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.

For past issues of the U.P. Ag Connections newsletter visit: [http://www.agbioresearch.msu.edu/uprc/newsletter.html](http://www.agbioresearch.msu.edu/uprc/newsletter.html)
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Henry @ 906-786-7190

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Meetings & Events Calendar

**JULY**

6  Breakfast on the Farm, 9am to 1 pm CST, location: Daggett area, Contact: Lynette 906-639-2308
16-18  Ag Expo, at MSU campus, Contact: 1-800-366-7055
19-21  Menominee County Fair
23  Field Day at MSU Research and Extension Center, Chatham, MI 10 a.m.—3 p.m.
23  UP Sheep & Goat Day, 10 a.m.—4 p.m., Chatham, MI
23  Managing for Today & Tomorrow (Annie’s Project), Bark River/Harris, MI, 5:30-9 p.m. EST, Contact: Warren Schauer 906-753-2209

**AUGUST**

2-4  Alger County Fair
7  Managing for Today & Tomorrow (Annie’s Project) Bark River/Harris, MI 5:30-9 p.m. EST, Contact: Warren Schauer 906-753-2209
8-11  Marquette County Fair
8-11  Gogebic County Fair, Ironwood, MI
12-18  UP State Fair, Escanaba, MI
14-18  Iron County Fair
21  Managing for Today & Tomorrow (Annie’s Project) Bark River/Harris, MI
21  ServSafe workshop, 9am to 5pm, Escanaba, MI, Contact Julie 906-786-3032
21-25  Luce West Mackinac County Fair
22-25  Houghton County Fair, in Hancock, MI
25-September 2  Chippewa County Fair
28  UP Potato Field Day, TJJ Farms, Cornell, MI, Contact Chris Kapp: 906-439-5114
28  Managing for Today & Tomorrow (Annie’s Project) Bark River/Harris, MI
29-September 2  Dickinson County Fair

***If you do not wish to receive this publication, please contact the Ontonagon County MSUE office at 906-884-4386.***