



# UP Ag Connections

725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953

Vol. 18 Issue 8 MSU Extension August 2013

Published Monthly

## NEWS & VIEWS

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

As I write this, my kids are home getting animals and tack ready to move into the county fair. While the weather here today is not good for making hay, it is pleasant for the animals. I probably make note of this every year because I believe it is so important. Pay special attention to the care of your animals during exhibition. Only a little over a week ago the temps and humidity were in the 90's and keeping livestock comfortable was difficult to near impossible. If that weather presents itself during the fair, we will have a huge job in front of ourselves to do everything we can to make the animals as comfortable as possible. Ventilation is critical and unfortunately we have many livestock barns at fairs, across the country, that are poorly ventilated. Using fans becomes critical. Make sure animals are offered water frequently. Use the wash racks to wet the animals to allow evaporative cooling. Animals that suffer from heat stress become much more susceptible to illness. If animals get sick at the fair, get help quick. Call a vet or ask for guidance from a knowledgeable livestock person. Fair time is our opportunity, in the livestock industry, to show the public how incredibly well we care for our animals. Let's make sure we do it right every day.

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Last month I pointed out the importance of developing plans and having plans to deal with the situations when our plans don't work. Much of the Western U.P. has been incredibly wet this year. I have many ruts in fields to prove it and conversations with other farms prove that I'm not alone. I have been stuck more times making hay this year than I care to talk about. I have an in-line balage wrapper. So part of my plan to deal with rainy hay making weather is to make balage. On two separate occasions I saw the radar indicating big storms were coming. So rather than let the hay get rained on, I hurried up and baled the hay as balage just in time to beat the rain. I was so proud and happy!! Then in the pouring rain, I went to start hauling and wrapping. I'm set up to do this all by myself with a loader tractor in the field and a skid loader at the wrapper. I couldn't get the loads out of the field. It was mostly on the dirt roads going back to the fields. Muddin' is probably fun with big powerful trucks, but not so much when you are making hay. I had to go get help for someone to drive the truck and trailer while I pushed with the tractor. I was slipping and sliding, cutting ruts all over the place. Even the wrapper got stuck. Those of you that really know me, know I don't mind laughing at myself once in a while. So while I'm cussing the situation, I started thinking of last month's article where I so pompously tell the world to develop plans. And I started laughing and thought, what do you do when your plans don't work? IMPROVISE!

So let's have a great fair season and a good harvest.

~Frank

## MARKET REPORT (7/26/13)

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

### Market Ready Prices

Choice Steers	\$105-\$131	per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$100-\$115	per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$68-\$77	per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$100-\$120	per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$65-\$87	per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$84-\$145	per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$75-\$125	per 100 lbs.

### Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1300 - 1700	per head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1200 - 1600	per head

### Feed Prices across the U.P. (7/22/13)

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$18.28	\$365.50	\$295-436
Soymeal	\$35.15	\$703.00	\$605-801
Oats	\$19.10	\$382.00	\$260-504
Barley	\$16.15	\$323.00	\$250-396

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:** Icelandic sheep-ewes, ewe lambs, and ram lambs. Various colors; some can be registered. Most are \$200. Possible to get a starter flock. Call 906-282-5065.

**For Sale:** 2013 Hay Round Bales 4x5 Net Wrapped Alfalfa/Brome, Timothy Mix \$70 per Bale CASH Only  
Contact: 906-438-2381

**For Sale:** Chicken-Chicken-Chicken  
Farm Raised chicken – USDA approved. Vacuum Packed Fresh & Ready to Go!!! Quartered \$2.75/lb and Whole \$2.50/lb  
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## Strategic Growth Initiative Grant Program to Boost Michigan's Growing Food and Agriculture Industry: \$3 million available to solve industry barriers

Heather Throne, 517-373-1085 or

[throneh@michigan.gov](mailto:throneh@michigan.gov)

LANSING, Mich. – Today, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director Jamie Clover Adams announced a \$3 million grant program designed to break down barriers inhibiting the growth of Michigan's food and agriculture industry. The grant program is a joint venture between MDARD and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

"The Strategic Growth Initiative Grant Program provides an opportunity to leverage business development and growth for Michigan's \$91.4 billion food and agriculture industry," said Clover Adams. "With increased investment in our state's food and agriculture industry, we are fostering opportunities for job growth in high tech and innovative careers."

"Food processing and its ties to manufacturing in Michigan are an important part of our overall economy," said Michael A. Finney, President and CEO of MEDC. "We need programs to help this sector continue growing, and expanding jobs throughout the state. Whatever barriers we can eliminate through these grants are steps in the right direction of improving our economic comeback."

This grant program is a direct result of the Governor's 2011 Summit on production agriculture and recommendations from the House Agriculture Sub-committee on Agricultural Processing. This initiative will help focus on economic opportunities for Michigan's food processors, agri-business, and those in agricultural production to foster business development, talent, and growth. Additionally, MDARD and MEDC will coordinate and cooperate with universities and research organizations to bring the latest technology and information to improve Michigan's food and agriculture industry.

The funding for the Strategic Growth Initiative will be evaluated through a competitive scoring process. Applicants for grant funds will be asked to describe how the project potentially impacts and produces measurable outcomes for the food and agriculture industry and/or the public rather than a single organization, institution, or individual.

All application materials including the program overview and scoring sheet are available on MDARD's website at [www.michigan.gov/mdagrants](http://www.michigan.gov/mdagrants). Applications must be received by 3 pm Wednesday, October 2, 2013.

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)

**Hiawathaland Farm Bureau offers MAEAP and RUP credit session and barbeque dinner at Chatham on August 7**

The Hiawathaland Farm Bureau annual picnic will be held on Wednesday, August 7 at the MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham. The event will feature an optional 2-hour educational session from 4:00 – 6:00 pm for interested people provided by MAEAP water quality technician Holly Wendrick and MSU Extension crop production educator Jim Isleib. MAEAP Phase 1 credit and 2 MDA pesticide applicator recertification credits are available to those who attend the educational session. Topics will include: economic thresholds for crop treatment, drift management, pesticide storage and container disposal, Farm-A-Syst program demo, selecting organic pest control products, and sprayer calibration.

The complimentary barbeque dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Membership in Hiawathaland Farm Bureau, or any other local farm bureau is not required. In other words...”Everybody’s welcome!”. Following the dinner, brief presentations from NRCS, FSA, conservation district and MAEAP staff will describe their programs and services offered to area farms.

The event is funded by a grant from NRCS in partnership with Michigan Farm Bureau. Registration is not necessary. Bring your appetite. If you have questions, call Shanon at Hiawathaland Farm Bureau, 789-9373.

**Join U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow for UP Food Forum**

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow invites local food leaders and producers from across the UP to meet with her on **Tuesday, August 13th** to discuss important food initiatives in the Farm Bill, and her efforts as Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry to boost economic growth, support agriculture, and increase access to more locally-grown, healthy food choices for families. She would like to hear from local leaders and producers who are working on food initiatives in the UP.

The meeting will begin at 1:15 pm in the Charcoal Room on the 2nd floor of the University Center Building at Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Ave in Marquette.

**Food Forum Continued:**

To attend, please RSVP to [RSVP@Stabenow.senate.gov](mailto:RSVP@Stabenow.senate.gov) or call 906-228-8756 and provide your name, organization and number of people attending.

The Senate overwhelmingly passed Chairwoman Stabenow’s Farm Bill, which strengthens Michigan agriculture and supports farmers’ markets and local food hubs across our state and throughout the country. Join us for this unique opportunity to hear from Senator Stabenow and share our UP experiences and successes.

**Upper Peninsula Potato Field Day  
August 28th, 2013**

**TJJ Farms  
12617 Summer Meadow  
Cornell, MI 49818**

**Starting at 4 p.m.**

**Welcome and U.P. Potato Research Update -**  
Christian Kapp, MSU AgBio Research  
**Update on MSU Upper Peninsula Research and**  
**Extension Center-**

Ashley Mcfarland, Center Coordinator

**Michigan Potato Industry Overview-**

Mike Wenkel, Executive Director, Michigan  
Potato Industry Commission

**Variety Report-**

Chris Long, MSU Potato Specialist

**Seed Industry Update-**

Jeff Axford, Executive Director, Michigan  
Seed Potato Association

**Soil Health Research Update-**

Noah Rosenzweig, Post-Doctoral Researcher,  
MSU Dept of Plant Pathology

**Potato Disease Update-**

Willie Kirk, Associate Professor, MSU Dept.  
of Plant Pathology

**Cover Crops for Colorado Potato Beetle**

**Management-**

James DeDecker, MSU Extension Agriculture  
Educator

**Dinner-**Sponsored by Great Lakes Agri. Service, Inc

## Birdsfoot Trefoil Fills a Forage Need on Many Michigan Farms

*Though not as common or widely planted as alfalfa or red clover, birdsfoot trefoil has desirable characteristics in specific situations.*

By: Jim Isleib, Extension Educator and Kim Cassida, Forage Specialist

Birdsfoot trefoil, *Lotus corniculatus*, seems to have dropped out of favor in Michigan pastures and hayfields. This is too bad, because birdsfoot trefoil (BFT) is very well adapted to the Michigan environment and still has a lot to offer. Alfalfa will out-produce BFT by 50% or more on well-drained, fertile soils but on soils that are too poorly drained to support alfalfa, BFT is more likely to thrive. It is also more tolerant of acidic soils than alfalfa. These two characteristics alone make it a reasonable choice for use on sites with these kinds of adverse growing conditions. In addition BFT is perennial and reproduces itself by reseeding. Like alfalfa and clover, BFT is a legume and fixes nitrogen from the atmosphere as long as the proper seed inoculant is used at the time of planting. From a nutritional perspective, grazing BFT supports cattle gains of up to 3.5 lbs per day while improving plant protein use by livestock, reducing nitrogen losses to the environment, and reducing greenhouse gas production. As a bonus, BFT consumed by grazing animals does not cause bloat and helps alleviate fescue toxicosis. Recent research at Michigan State University and other locations indicates grazing BFT may also help naturally control gastrointestinal parasites in sheep and goats.

BFT can be grown in pure stands, but is usually planted in combination with one or more forage grass species to improve overall forage yield potential and support BFT stems. Its structure is less erect than alfalfa, reaching a height of up to 12-20 inches, depending on variety. Prostrate stems may be considerably longer. On clay soil areas in the U.P., timothy/trefoil stands are common, since one- or two-cutting systems prevail and the clay soils in the region are somewhat poorly drained.



K.A. Cassida

BFT is slow to establish and vulnerable to competition from other plant species during establishment. Early spring seedings are generally more successful in Michigan than summer seedings. Care must be taken to ensure good seed-to-soil contact and an acceptably low level of competition from companion crops or weeds to developing BFT seedlings. If a small grain nurse crop or perennial companion grass is used, it is a good idea to use a relatively low seeding rate of nurse crop/grass and remove the nurse crop/grass when it reaches 8 to 10 inches in height. Be patient while BFT establishes because it may take a year to see a vigorous stand.

Once established, good harvest management will be needed to allow adequate regrowth and seed set and dispersal. In contrast to alfalfa, BFT regrowth originates from buds on the stem rather than from the crown, so it is important to leave enough stem at harvest. BFT does not maintain as much root reserves as alfalfa and must be given time to build up before the next harvest. The first harvest of trefoil as hay should take place when the stand reaches 10% bloom. Nutritional quality will still be excellent at this stage because mature BFT holds its nutritional quality better than alfalfa. The second harvest can be taken after full flowering and seed set. Under grazing, some lower stems tend to survive mowing or grazing and are able to set seed which results in new plant establishment. BFT stands survive a long time because of reseeding, not because individual plants have great longevity.

The variety Norcen has excellent winter hardiness and is the most widely grown BFT variety in northern Michigan. Other varieties adapted for the region include Empire and Viking. Empire and similar varieties are well-adapted to grazing since they have fine stems, a more prostrate structure, and an indeterminate growth habit (they continue to grow after flowering). Norcen and Viking are considered 'European' types, are more upright in growth, and are suited to harvest as hay and haylage as well as by grazing. Because BFT stands are managed to encourage reseeding, cross-pollination with other varieties is common resulting in a gradual decline of stand purity. So, if you buy BFT seed from an old stand of Norcen, it will likely consist of some Norcen, and some seed resulting from cross pollination from other varieties growing nearby. This seed may or may not be equivalent to the original Norcen. To avoid this problem, buy certified seed.

Birdsfoot trefoil has some great qualities, and can contribute to good forage production on many Michigan farms.

For details on birdsfoot trefoil:

[Birdsfoot trefoil for grazing and harvested forage, North Central Regional Extension Publication 474](#)

For more information, contact Jim Isleib, Extension Educator at 906-387-2530 or [isleibj@anr.msu.edu](mailto:isleibj@anr.msu.edu), or Kim Cassida, Forage Specialist at 517-355-0271 ext. 1194 or [cassida@msu.edu](mailto:cassida@msu.edu).

## Log Cabin Livestock Farm Day Healthy Soil, Multi-Species Grazing & Effective Water Systems

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2013

Location: Log Cabin Livestock Farm, Traunik, MI

Our Log Cabin Livestock Farm day is part of HMI's new Open Gate On-Farm Learning Series. Open Gate is an action-based approach to learning. At the Log Cabin Livestock Farm Day you'll see how fellow Michigander land managers are positively impacting pasture productivity and soil health through multi-species grazing. You'll learn...

- How planned grazing positively impacts soil health
- Simple techniques to monitor soil health and pasture productivity
- Livestock watering options and how to develop simple and easy watering systems
- How the Log Cabin Livestock Farm benefits from grazing management
- How Holistic Management enables producers to better manage risk, make better decisions and enjoy the benefits of sustainable agriculture.

How producers, agricultural professionals, and organizations are seeking new solutions for sustainable and profitable livestock production

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You - and the group - have the opportunity to identify common problems and discuss common solutions in a friendly atmosphere. With experienced facilitators and producers on hand, the goal of the day is to identify and solve a current problem - and to create a forum for sharing practices, ideas, advice, and solutions to that problem.

The process: small groups of people come together to work on something that is real and current, and each person gets individual time from the others. When you leave at the end of the day, you'll take away practical ideas on how you can increase profit, production and performance for a sustainable ranch operation.

Join farmers and resource managers from around Michigan for this action-based learning day- and take home some new tips and ideas you can put to use.

**Space is limited, so be sure to register in advance**

**Advance Registration**

**\$20.00 per person**

**\$30.00 per couple**

**(includes lunch)**

**Same Day Registration**

**\$25.00 per person**

**\$40.00 per couple**

**(includes lunch)**

Register online or contact Carrie Nelson, (505) 842-5252.

### Agenda, All times are Eastern Daylight

9:30 Arrival & Registration

10:30 Introductions Orientation - Frank Aragona

10:45 The Value of Holistic Management to Log Cabin Livestock - Ben & Denise Bartlett

11:00 Introduction to Effective Biological Monitoring and Soil Health Analysis Techniques, presentation and small group exercises - Ben & B J Bartlett

12:15 Lunch

1:30 Water Infrastructure Design Demonstration to Improve Grazing Implementation presentation and Q&A - Ben Bartlett

2:15 Forage Assessment Small Group Exercise - Ben Bartlett

3:15 Group Work to Solve Individual Farm Issues Participants are Facing & Group Discussion of Lessons Learned - Frank Aragona

4:00 Evaluation and Closing

### Speakers

- Ben & Denise Bartlett, Owners Log Cabin Livestock Farm
- B J Bartlett, Director of Agricultural Operations, Algonquin Farms
- Frank Aragona, Programs Director, HMI

### Thanks

Our Open Gate On-Farm Learning series is partially funded by a grant from the CHS Foundation

## Farm Bureau Looking for Centennial Farms

**Farm Bureau is looking for Centennial Farms of the Upper Peninsula. We will be featuring them at the U.P. State Fair in the Miracle of life Building. Please send history, picture, past and present to [hansfarm@up.net](mailto:hansfarm@up.net) or Diane Hanson 3595 26th Cornell, Mi 49818 Phone 906-384-6908**

## August 2013 - FSA News

### NONINSTURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) INSURANCE DEADLINES

Has a natural disaster like drought, excessive rain, or high winds caused crop losses or prevented planting? Did this impact your bottom line? Crops not insurable under Risk Management Agency CAT Crop Insurance are covered under NAP and can be purchased for \$250 per crop and a maximum of \$750 per county!

To qualify for administrative service fee waiver, a limited resource producer must have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50% of the county median household in both the previous 2 years. Limited resource producer status can be determined using a web site available through the Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self Determination Tool through the National Resource and Conservation Service at [www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tols.asp](http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tols.asp). Please note that limited resource producers are required to recertify limited resource producer status annually.

#### **THE DEADLINE for purchasing your 2014 policies are as follows:**

August 30, 2013:	Aquaculture, Nursery Crops, Christmas Trees, & Grass Sod
September 30, 2013:	Mixed Hay, Alfalfa, Pasture, Rye, Seed Crops, & Fall Speltz
November 20, 2013:	Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Raspberries, & Strawberries
December 1, 2013:	Honey & Maple Sap
March 15, 2014:	Peas, Oats/Barley for Forage, Sorghum, Beans, Potatoes, Triticale, Vegetable Crops, & Corn in some counties.

If you grow a crop not listed here – call your local FSA Service Center. Keep in mind that some of these crops are covered by Federal Crop Insurance in certain U.P. countries. In counties where alfalfa and mixed forage (AGM) are covered by crop insurance, FSA cannot sell a NAP policy for these types of forage when the seedlings are older than 6 years. Crops determined not insurable and not eligible for NAP do not need to meet Risk Management Purchase Requirement.

**REMEMBER** – Without insurance you are **NOT** eligible for National Disaster Programs!

### FEDS FEED FAMILIES

Feds Feed Families is a national food drive that your local USDA Service Centers are participating in. This program began in 2009 as part of President Obama's *United We Serve* campaign and is designed to help food banks and pantries stay stocked during the summer months, a time when they traditionally encounter decreases in donations and increases in the need for assistance. Your contributions to this project are encouraged and needed. Perishable and non-perishable items are accepted. If you have produce you wish to donate you can take it to your nearest FSA Service Center. Each local service center has a collection box for your contributions. Donations will be accepted through August 31.

### ATTENTION PRODUCERS!

Your 2013 production is needed. As you complete harvesting for the 2013 growing season, be sure to turn your production into your local FSA Service Center.

### BANK CHANGES

If you changed banks and did not notify FSA, your payments could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

### RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H Clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

#### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

### GREAT INTEREST RATES: Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

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

July Interest Rates:	1.500 percent for 7 years with a loan of \$100,000 or less
	2.125 percent for 10 years with a loan of \$100,000 - \$250,000
	2.375 percent for 12 years with a loan of \$250,000 - \$500,000

Contact your local FSA county office for August's interest rates

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**Menominee Farm Bureau**



President: Pete Klieman  
Secretary: Lynette Verbisky  
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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

### 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  
7 Hiawathaland Farm Buruea MAEAP & RUP Credit Sessions/ Annual Picnic, at MSU Research Center, Chatham, MI, Contact Shanon, 906-789-9373  
8-11 Marquette County Fair  
8-11 Gogebic County Fair, Ironwood, MI  
12-18 UP State Fair, Escanaba, MI  
13 U.P. Food Forum, Marquette, MI, RSVP 906-228-8756  
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 906-439-5114

Registered Maine  
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### SEPTEMBER

- 21 Log Cabin Livestock Farm Day, Traunik, MI,  
Contact: Carrie Nelson (505) 842-5252