



U.P. Ag Connections

725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953

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NEWS & VIEWS

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

It seems that every year has its own identity. Last year at this time, I was writing about the incredibly early Spring. Some farmers had oats in the ground at this time last year. This year, the snow is still deep and only slowly melting. It reminds me that everything we do in agriculture involves Mother Nature. She doesn't always cooperate, but she does always provide. Our job as farmers is to be prepared to receive what she gives us. It may be as simple as harvesting more crops in years of good rainfall, or maybe changing the cropping system to allow for harvesting a more diverse list of forages throughout the year, or developing multiple vegetable fields to develop a better crop rotation to help break disease and insect cycles. Regardless, farmers working with the environment find life much easier.

I would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Min. He has taken a new job at Kansas State University. Min will be an Assistant Professor at the Research and Extension Center in Garden City. He has been an excellent resource for farmers and Extension educators across the U.P. He has also always had the producer's best interests at heart through his Extension and research work. It has been a pleasure to have worked with Min and I know everyone will agree that we all wish him the very best.

This last week, I was at a local Farm Bureau Membership Drive luncheon meeting. Commissioner Diane Hanson was in attendance and talked about developing agriculture infrastructure. Diane has been a great commissioner with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. She has been a strong ambassador for U.P. Agriculture. She not only has done a fine job as liaison between the Michigan farmer and our state government, but has been a sensible voice for the MDARD responsibilities. At the FB meeting she discussed the roles that Mike DiBernardo and Nancy Nyquist serve as Ag Development Specialists covering the U.P. They oversee grants that are available for economic development through agriculture and are working on some exciting projects.

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The keynote speaker at the Ag for Tomorrow Conference was Jamie Clover Adams, Director of MDARD. Director Adams also outlined a direction of developing our local economies through agriculture and agricultural businesses. And by the way, the conference was a huge success according to our evaluations and personal contacts. We had to move the conference from the Heirman Center to the Besse Center at Bay College due to construction. There were a few complications with being in a new location, but there were also some benefits to using a different facility.

Of course, after my comments in the last two newsletters, my ears perk up whenever I hear someone talking about agriculture infrastructure and its improvement. I expect agriculture to continue to grow throughout the U.P. and opportunities in building infrastructure are out there. My hopes are that it is done wisely. Also, I think it will be interesting to see where the leadership comes from in the charge forward.

~Frank

Market Report (as of 3/27/13)

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Market Ready Prices

Choice Steers	\$108-\$124	per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$98-\$113	per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$50-\$56	per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$105-\$120	per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$70-\$83	per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$90-\$135	per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$70-\$165	per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein Cows	\$1,700-\$2,000
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1,400-\$1,600

Feed Prices across the U.P. (as of 3/22/13)

	<u>Avg. \$/cwt</u>	<u>Avg. \$/ton</u>	<u>Price Range</u>
Corn	\$18.90	\$378.00	\$320-\$436
Soymeal	\$29.18	\$583.50	\$499-\$668
Oats	\$19.23	\$384.50	\$265-\$504
Barley	\$15.78	\$315.50	\$259-\$372

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: Tractors—AC 8030 \$16,500, JD 4020 \$9,650, JD 4010 \$6,950, JD 2510 \$5,400, JD 3010 \$5,950, JD 2940 \$10,950, IH 1466 \$11,450, IH 1086 \$15,500,
Grain Drill—JD 8300 \$3,650, ... AND MORE
Vulcan, MI Contact: 906-438-2381

WANTED: Local Family Farm looking for Farm Land to Rent for Planting Crops. Rent to be paid in full every year.
Contact: 906-438-2381

For Sale: 2 year old, Registered Angus Bull \$1,800
Contact: 906-827-3390

For Sale: 4'x5' Round bales of mostly grass balage. \$80.00. Trenary.
Contact: 906-446-3398.

For Sale: Yearling Red Angus bulls. Calving ease. BVD, Johnes tested herd. Gentle and easy to work.
Contact: Cripple Creek Ranch. 906-238-4236

For Sale: Reg. yearling Hereford bull, halter broke, quiet, sure footed, will add muscle and carcass quality to any herd. \$ 1,500
Garden Contact 906-644-7140

For Sale: 2012 Reg. Herford bulls by Genex Sires, Feltons Legend 242, Schu-Lar 5N. Great EPDs. Excellent blood lines. Very quiet. Halter broke. Hutchinson Heritage Farm
Sault Ste. Marie, MI Contact 906-635-9538

Bull Buyers Select for Profitability Traits

As bull buying season begins, beef cow-calf producers are encouraged to prioritize profitability traits. Identifying bulls with well-balanced traits that meet the priorities of a particular operation is critical in producing calves that will be profitable and improve genetic merit of the herd.

Beef cow-calf producers should prioritize the traits that are most important to profitability on their particular operation. Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) is the most widely used indicator of genetic merit for most breeds. Most commonly used EPDs fall into the category of growth, maternal ability or carcass quality.

Growth EPDs, such as weaning weight and yearling weight, are important economic traits. Cattle growth performance is an important economic performance indicator. Cattle that do not grow and perform well usually are not profitable. Producers should select bulls with good growth performance; however, care needs to be taken to select animals that are not too large in their frame size. Yearling weight is positively correlated with frame score; consequently, frame score and mature weight of the cow herd can become too large by selecting for growth EPDs alone and drive up feed requirements.

Birth weight and calving ease are important traits to consider. Calf survival is a critical indicator of cow-calf profitability. Calves born through difficult birth are more likely to die during parturition or soon after. Cows that have difficulties delivering a calf are less likely to rebreed during the subsequent breeding season. Selecting for low birth weight and calving ease will improve weaning and breeding percentages and help keep frame score and mature weight in check. However, continual selection for low birth weight or calving ease alone may result in cattle lacking in growth and mature size. Producers should look for bulls with growth EPDs that are in an upper percentile of the breed, while also selecting bulls with lower birth weights and greater calving ease numbers. Selection in this manner will allow for adequate growth of calves and moderate mature size of cows. Remember, selection for extremes is seldom a preferred genetic selection method and a balanced approach is almost always the best.

Producers should also pay special attention to maternal milking ability. Selecting for greater milking ability will also result in greater nutrient requirements of lactating cows. If feed resources do not support the increase of feed needs, cows may lose body weight and condition which can result in poor conception rates. Producers need to select bulls that will produce replacement females with milking ability that matches their feed resources.

Carcass merit can be an important economic trait. Producers that retain ownership or have been able to market calves based on their carcass quality should pay particular attention to carcass traits such as marbling, rib eye area, carcass weight, and yield grade. Cattle that are selected based on carcass merit offer opportunities to improve profitability by marketing finished cattle when sold directly to packers with prices based on carcass quality.

Producers should take a balanced approach to selecting multiple traits and seek bulls moderately above breed average with emphasis on the traits most important to an individual operation. Beef cow-calf producers should select bulls for traits important to achieve profitability. For more information on using EPDs to purchase breeding bulls contact Frank Wardynski, Ruminant Extension Educator with Michigan State University at wardynsk@anr.msu.edu or 906-884-4386.

Copper Country Farm Bureau Workshop Series

Hosted by the CCFB Young Farmer Committee
To be held In the SISU Room of the Houghton County Arena
1500 Birch Street, Hancock, MI
\$5.00 per person for non Farm Bureau members for each workshop

Small Livestock and Poultry swap and sale Saturday May 4th 8 a.m. – 12 noon

To be held next to Erickson Feed, Seed and Pet Supply in Huron town (Houghton)
The public is invited and welcome; No admission fee for buyers or sellers
Swap participants are reminded that they are responsible for complying with all state and local rules and regulations regarding transportation and sale of animals.
Pullorum testing will be available on-site for poultry over 6 months of age. All sheep and goats must be scrappie tagged.

For any questions contact Melanie Lampinen @ 281-4759 or Arthur Lampinen @ 281-2574

Pullorum Testing

On behalf of Michigan State University, Dr. Richard “Mick” Fulton, will be teaching a certification class on Pullorum Testing on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. Eastern at the Upper Peninsula State Fair Grounds. The class will be held in The Fine Arts/ Horticulture Building #5.

Dr. Fulton is an Associate Professor in the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health at Michigan State University.

The school will be approximately four hours long and there is NO FEE for this certification class.

All birds will be provided on site. Please do not bring your own birds.

Requirements for the class are that the participants must be 18 years of age and there must be at least 15 people registered to hold the class. Pre-registration is required. To register, contact Andrea Sorensen, Pullorum Certification Workshop Coordinator, at roy-alfathers@earthlink.net Andrea may also be reached by calling her home at 906-864-2551 or cellphone at 715-923-0410.

Upon completion of Certification for Pullorum Testing, the Michigan Allied Poultry Industries (MAPI) requires a \$20.00 licensing fee to be certified for three years, payable the same day.

Participants under the age of 18 are allowed to attend but they will not receive Certification and they will not count towards the 15 participant minimum. Deadline to register is May 11, 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)**

U.P. Food Exchange Website Goes Live!

By: Michelle Walk, Extension Educator, walkmich@msu.edu

The U.P. Food Exchange (UPFE) connects local food activity within each of the Upper Peninsula’s three distinct regions (eastern, central, and western), and coordinates local food efforts between the regions. This project aims to establish both online and physical aggregation sites for farm products, improve local food storage capacity, and educate consumers, farmers, and institutional purchasers about the resources and benefits available to them via the Exchange.

A food hub is a business or organization actively working with farmers and buyers to coordinate supply and demand of local and regional food. This is accomplished through the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified local and regional food products, primarily from very small to mid-sized producers to individuals, wholesalers, retailers, and/or institutional buyers.

Be sure to check out the brand new U.P. Food Exchange website at www.upfoodexchange.com. Here you can stay up to date regarding local food activities across the U.P., sign up for the UPFE newsletter and find out information about upcoming events and workshops. You can also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/upfoodexchange.

Thanks to MSUE staff, Farmers and the General Public in the UP!

By Dr. Doo-Hong Min, Extension Forage Specialist, MSU

I would like to thank you very much for your strong support, and it has been my pleasure to serve farmers and the general public, and work with other MSUE extension colleagues in the UP for the last 12 years. As you may know, MSU AgBioResearch and MSU Extension decided to eliminate the forage position at Chatham due to budget cuts. Fortunately I found a tenure-track faculty position at Kansas State University and am excited about this great opportunity in Kansas. I hope UP agriculture continues to play an important roll in the UP’s future. Again, thanks for your support.

Sincerely, Doo-Hong Min.

Farm Food Safety Workshops

With MSUE Educator, Phil Tocco

Each session includes 3 hours of classroom instruction from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, a catered lunch from 12:30 – 1:30 and an onsite mock farm audit from 2-4 pm. \$10.00 registration fee per person

Central Region

Chatham Wednesday, April 3rd

Classroom Session MSU AgBioResearch U.P. Research & Extension Center

Farm Audit Session Rock River Farm (Chatham)
N6302 Rock River Road Chatham, MI

Eastern Region

Sault Ste. Marie Tuesday, April 2nd

Classroom Session Best Western, Sault Ste Marie 4335
I-75 Business Spur

Farm Audit Session Ski Country Farm (Dafter) 2281
W 7 Mile Road Sault Ste. Marie, 49783

Western Region

Hancock Thursday, April 4th

Classroom Session Copper Country ISD 809 Hecla
Street

Farm Audit Session Farm Site TBD

Pre-register at www.upfoodexchange.com

For More Information: 906-225-0671 ext. 11 or upfoodexchange.com

Integrated crop pollination may be key to success with many Michigan crops

CONTACT: Holly Whetstone, MSU AgBioResearch, 517.355.0123
whetst11@msu.edu OR Rufus Isaacs, MSUresearcher, 517. 355.6619

Integrated crop pollination may be key to success with many Michigan crops

EAST LANSING, Mich.—An international study revealing the importance of wild pollinators for production of fruits and vegetables is providing new insights that may help improve Michigan’s pollination-dependent crops. Those crops, including blueberries, raspberries, apples, cherries and pickling cucumbers, have a farm-gate value of more than \$400 million* each year and add significantly to the state’s economy.

The research team, including MSU [AgBioResearch](#) entomologist [Rufus Isaacs](#), found that fruit set – the proportion of flowers turning into nuts or fruits – was considerably lower in sites with few wild insects visiting the crop flowers.

Therefore, losses of wild insects from landscapes will likely have negative effects on both natural biodiversity and agricultural harvests.

The study involved 50 researchers with data from farms in 20 countries and 41 crop systems around the world. The results of the study, by Lucas Garibaldi and his co-authors, appeared in *Science Express* Feb. 28, 2013. The results highlight that we should be exploring a diversity of approaches to support pollination in these crops, such as building wild bee populations on farms and bringing in alternative managed bees that can complement honeybees to help ensure that crops reach their yield potential,” explained Isaacs, a professor in the MSU Department of Entomology. He pointed out that many wild bee species visit Michigan’s orchards and fields, but the majority of the pollination work is done by honeybees brought by beekeepers and rented to growers in the spring and summer to pollinate crops. “This study suggests a strong benefit for conserving wild bees because their abundance was strongly correlated with fruit set in the many studies represented in this analysis,” Isaacs said.

“Their abundance is often low on farms, however, and we are interested in finding ways to enhance wild bees through simple practices that growers can adapt to their farm situations.” Isaacs is heading a new, nationwide [integrated crop pollination project](#), funded by a \$1.6 million grant from the Specialty Crops Research Initiative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which will make use of the results from the international study.

In Michigan, Isaacs is working with [Larry Gut](#), MSU professor of entomology and AgBioResearch scientist, and [Nikki Rothwell](#), coordinator of the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center and a district Extension horticulture educator, to test integrated approaches at blueberry, apple and cherry farms. “The approach of the integrated crop pollination project is analogous to that of integrated pest management, in that we aim to provide decision support tools to reduce risk and improve returns for growers through the use of multiple tactics tailored to specific crops and situations,” Isaacs explained.

The team will investigate bees visiting fruit orchards and fields on Michigan farms and will compare fields that are managed using honeybees alone, adding bumble bees or blue orchard bees, or adding specialized habitat for wild bees. He hopes that the new project will improve sustainability of U.S. specialty crops and thereby help ensure the continued ability of growers to reap profitable returns from their land.

April 2013 - FSA News

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or who would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

(Actively Engaged, continued)

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply: At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need.

Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

GREAT INTEREST RATES : Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

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

March Interest Rates:

- 1.375 percent for 7 years with a loan of \$100,000 or less
- 2.000 percent for 10 years with a loan of \$100,000 - \$250,000
- 2.250 percent for 12 years with a loan of \$250,000 - \$500,000

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

MSUE Lawn and Garden Hotline

1-888-MSUE-4MI (1-888-678-3464)
Open weekdays 9:00 a.m. - noon and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

People who call during other times are directed to the

"Ask an Expert" feature at www.migarden.msu.edu

For more information please visit:

<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/msue-lawn-and-garden-hotline>

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Frank Wardynski - 906-281-0918

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Develop a list of key pests as an initial step in IPM planning for vegetable insects

By: Ben Werling, MSU Extension

Identify the pests your vegetable crop is at risk for as an initial step in pre-season IPM planning.

Proactive insect management requires anticipating pests that pose a major risk to your crop. This can be a challenge, given the myriad of insects that damage vegetables. Pest managers can take a cue from risk assessment, which aims to anticipate and prioritize threats. In risk assessment, risk is the product of two things, the chance an event occurs, and the severity of the consequences if it occurs:

$$\text{Risk} = \text{likelihood an event occurs} \times \text{severity of its consequences}$$

Risk increases for events that are highly probable or have major negative effects on human goals.

In a pest management context, pests that are consistently present *and* cause economic damage pose a major risk and should take top priority. For example, sweet corn insect pests include over 10 insect species. However, of these, corn earworm, western bean cutworm and European corn borer are most consistently present *and* cause direct damage to corn ears that reduces marketable yield. In other words, there is a relatively high likelihood they will cause problems and the consequences will be severe if problems are not detected and managed. These pests pose a major risk and should be a focus of monitoring and control efforts.

Other pests may only be sporadically present, but cause severe damage when they do occur. Prior to the growing season, make sure to understand the conditions that favor these pests so you can take preventive measures in the event these conditions occur. According to Michigan State University Extension, a good example of such a pest is corn flea beetle, the vector of Stewart's wilt, a disease of sweet corn. This pest may not be a problem in cool winters that limit overwintering survival of beetles. However, when average temperatures between January and December are over 30 degrees Fahrenheit, a higher percentage of beetles will survive, increasing the risk of Stewart's wilt in seedling sweet corn. The consequences are potentially severe, as Stewart's wilt can cause significant yield loss. When these conditions occur (weather data for locations near you are available at Enviro-weather), a wilt-resistant variety can be planted to limit this problem.

For pests that are consistently damaging or cause occasional but severe damage, being proactive is essential. In contrast, other pests may be extremely rare or may be present but cause little economic damage. For these pests, reactive management is less risky.

When developing your plans for insect monitoring and control, focus on key pests that pose the highest risk of damaging your crop

		Severity of damage		
		Major economic damage	Moderate economic damage	Negligible damage
Likelihood of damage	Near certainty	Key pest	Key pest	Not key pest
	Possible, not certain	Key pest	Not key pest	Not key pest
	Unlikely	Not key pest	Not key pest	Not key pest

Example of a list of key insect pests of sweet corn, including conditions that favor sporadically important but damaging pests

Consistently present and damaging pest

- Corn earworm
- Western bean cutworm
- European corn borer

Sporadically present but damaging pests

- Wireworm: Sweet corn is planted after alfalfa, former sod or fallow
- Corn flea beetle: Winter temperatures averaging more than 30 F during December and January
- Seen corn maggot: Early planting in cool soils or planting in soils with high organic matter
- Corn leaf aphid: Problem in corn planted after mid-June and when winters are followed by dry conditions during the pre-tassel/silking stage

Breeding Soundness Exams for Bulls

Producers will again be able to have their bulls fertility tested at various locations across the Upper Peninsula in 2012. During the dates of April 22-26, Dr. Dan Grooms, Large Animal clinic with Michigan State University will be conducting breeding soundness exams and will be assisted by Dr. Renee Koyer with the Thompson Vet Clinic in Manistique.

Any producer that has turned out an infertile bull knows the financial ramifications. High percentage of cows not pregnant next fall means high cull rate and replacement cost. Especially with our current situation of historically high cost of production and rising replacement cost, the cost of fertility testing is inexpensive.

To schedule testing your bulls at one of the sites, contact Frank Wardynski in the Michigan State University Extension office in Ontonagon County at 906-884-4386.

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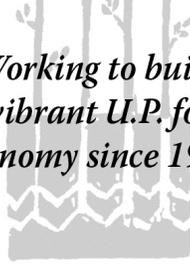
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Secretary: Mary Robertson
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*****If you no longer want to receive this publication, please contact the Ontonagon County MSUE office at 906-884-4386*****

Meetings & Events Calendar

APRIL

- 2 Annie's Project program, 5:30-9 p.m., Contact Warren Schauer 906-786-3032
- 2 Farm Food Safety Workshop, 9:30-4 EST, Sault Ste. Marie, MI Contact 906-225-0671
- 3 Farm Food Safety Workshop, 9:30-4 EST, Chatham, MI Contact 906-225-0671
- 4 Farm Food Safety Workshop, 9:30-4 EST, Hancock, MI Contact 906-225-0671
- 16 Annie's Project program, 5:30-9 p.m., Contact Warren Schauer 906-786-3032
- 18 Clare County Livestock Auction, Clare, MI 1 p.m., Contact 810-441-6191
- 20 Yooper Pig Sale, Escanaba Michigan, Contact Todd: 815-592-9291 or Frank: 906-281-0918 (Details on page 2)
- 22-26 Breeding Soundness Exam for Bulls, Thompson Vet Clinic, Manistique, Contact: Frank Wardynski to schedule, 906-884-4386
- 27 Key to Profit sale, 1 pm EST, UP State Fair Grounds in Escanaba, Contact Glenn Hanson 906-630-5169 or glennhansonjr@gmail.com

May

- 4 Small Livestock and Poultry Swap and Sale, 8 am to Noon, See page 3 for details
- 5 Annual Club Lamb Sale, 10 a.m. EST, 2 miles North of Bark River, MI Contact Bob St. John 906-466-2535 or rastjohn@gmail.com
- 5 FFA Alumni Consignment Auction, Wallace, MI Contact: 906-753-4192
- 9 Clare County Livestock Auction, Clare, MI 1 p.m., Contact 810-441-6191
- 18 Pullorum Testing Certification class, 9 a.m. EST, UP State Fair Grounds, Contact: Andrea by email royalfeathers@earthlink.net or phone 906-864-2551

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**U.P. Agriculture
Connections**

Frank Wardynski
Managing Editor
Dairy & Livestock
Educator
(906) 884-4386
wardynsk@anr.msu.edu

Melissa Picotte
Publications Editor
(906) 884-4386
Fax 906-884-2582
msue66@msu.edu

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