



# U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

August 2018

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

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## News and Views

It's fair season again. As I write this, my kids are home getting their animals and tack ready to take to the county fair. All across the Upper Peninsula 4-Hers will be getting ready for either a county fair or UP State Fair, or both with great anticipation and excitement. Of course I think about livestock exhibitors that have been putting the work in at home so their projects will compete at the highest level. So many of these exhibitors are hoping to win grand champion at some level. Maybe it's showmanship, or with a market or breeding animal. Of course not everyone can be champion. I ask exhibitors to remember that and also remember it is one person's opinion on one given day. While many exhibitors are going to experience heart break, I pray they all conduct themselves with grace and humility regardless of their ribbon and trophy status. I remember my oldest daughter's last year as an exhibitor. She really didn't have an animal that was going to win grand champion, so she went with an objective to win the master showman award. She showed beef, sheep, goats, hogs and horses. I think she was reserve champion show person in four of those species yet not champion in any of them, so she didn't make it into the master showman competition. It was a heartbreak. I was so proud of her. The effort she put in to accomplish her goal, the manner she conducted herself in defeat. I told her how proud of her I was that last night at the camp site, we had a great cry and it's hard to explain what a learning experience that was. Not just knowledge about the project, but as a person. Learning how to work towards lofty goals and dealing with defeat. That is why I believe there will never be teacher of life like a 4-H livestock project.

I have another daughter that is about to be competing in her final year as a 4-H member with her own lofty goals. I hope she can achieve those goals. But if she doesn't, I hope she will learn from the experience the same way as her older sister did. As with any exhibitor, I hope she wins and loses with class and integrity. I hope she is thankful for all the volunteers of both money and time that helped make this experience possible.

As we prepare to exhibit our livestock at the county and state fairs, I want to remind everyone of the great responsibility we have to care for our livestock to keep them as comfortable and well cared for as possible. Today is cool and overcast here in Ontonagon. The livestock are very comfortable. However, we are likely to see some hot and humid days while at the fair. Let's take the opportunity to show the fair goers how much we care and how well we care for our animals. Be diligent in observing the animals for stress and sickness. Be quick to find help from our parents, leaders and veterinarians if we see signs of discomfort. Fair time is our opportunity to demonstrate to the public how incredibly well we care for our livestock. Let's make the most of it.

And finally, I hope all of you will make your way over to the miracle of life barn to see the birthing animals and the veterinarians assisting there and the other demonstrations within the building. I know MSU Extension will be more interactive, especially for young people, and the Farm Bureau will have all of their usual activities for both youth and adults. Can't wait to See You at the Fair!

Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

## Development efforts underway at UPREC

Much change and growth has occurred at the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center over the past five years, and as a result, the agricultural learning center concept, first proposed by the Growing U.P. Agricultural Association is close to becoming a reality. Efforts are now under way to engage the U.P. agriculture community in a campaign for investment in infrastructure and programming at the farm.

The proposed UPREC learning center initiative is unique in its scope. As well as providing educational opportunities for youth who wish to pursue a career in agriculture, food, and natural resource (AFNR) fields, this initiative will reach all Upper Peninsula students and prepare them for life, armed with the knowledge and science of living systems delivered through both classroom and experiential learning. In addition, the learning center will focus on adult learning, farmer mentoring and investment in strategic research that will provide long-term benefits to the U.P.

The main objectives include:

- Providing engaging and interactive educational experiences for pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students either at the farm or in the classroom;
- Continuing to support the establishment, growth and development of formal AFNR programs through U.P. school districts by hosting students, providing teacher training, and programmatic support;
- Supporting development of post-secondary educational initiatives in the U.P., partnering with the MSU Institute of Ag Technology and academic institutions throughout the region;
- Investing in strategic research initiatives that will attract scientists and students to UPREC;
- Providing an accessible and functional space for adult learning available to MSU and learning center partners; and
- Facilitating farmer mentoring to allow for the interaction and transfer of knowledge between established farmers those new to the occupation.

In order to accomplish those objectives, however, we will need your help to develop a truly regional collaborative. Although much of the programming efforts are already well underway, UPREC is looking to establish a physical space on the farm that provides the functionality and accessibility needed to bring

more people to the farm and expand the reach of our work.

The plan for the center is a 2500 square foot facility that will be ADA-compliant, provide year-round accessibility, and have restrooms and a kitchenette. The conferencing space will be able to be divided into two different spaces including meeting space for up to 50 people that is flexible and can be multi-purposed for meetings, receptions or educational display space. The goal for the project is \$300,000 and the UPREC Advisory Council and Growing U.P. Agricultural Association is beginning to reach out to community members for their support. If you would like to learn more about the project and how you can become involved, please contact MSU Extension Director Jeff Dwyer at [dwyerje@anr.msu.edu](mailto:dwyerje@anr.msu.edu) or Bridget Paff, Director of Development for MSU Extension at [paff@msu.edu](mailto:paff@msu.edu) or 517-353-1336. Look for additional information to come soon and thanks in advance for your support!

### MSU Malting Barley Quality Lab

Producing high-quality malting barley is crucial to the growth of the craft malting industry. Barley should be tested at a lab that understands the quality factors that are important to maltsters and that uses standardized methodologies approved by the industry.

Malting barley is tested at the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center quality analysis lab utilizing the methods outlined by the [American Society of Brewing Chemists](#). The lab participates in the ASBC check sample program to ensure confidence in results. For more information and lab pricing, go to [www.canr.msu.edu/malting\\_barley/lab](http://www.canr.msu.edu/malting_barley/lab)

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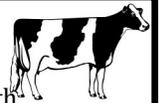


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## Market Report

Choice Steers	\$100—\$113 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$73—\$97 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$64—\$69 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$130—\$160 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$45—\$60 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$50—\$125 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$200—\$240 per 100 lbs.

### Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows \$1100—\$1650/head  
 Grade Holstein bred heifers \$1200—\$1500/head

### Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$10.06	\$201.25	\$160-270
Soymeal	\$20.61	\$412.25	\$372-450
Oats	\$12.13	\$242.50	\$200-300
Barley	\$9.78	\$195.50	\$160-240
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

## The UP Gains a Produce Safety Technician

The state of Michigan is preparing its farmers for upcoming Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule inspections, beginning in January of 2019. Grant funding from the Michigan Department of Rural and Agricultural Development (MDARD) allows the hire of up to six Produce Safety Technicians throughout the Mitten State, including one in the Upper Peninsula. The technicians, hired by local county conservation districts, serve to educate and assist farmers in understanding and complying to the Produce Safety Rule (PSR). Inspections for the compliance of the PSR will begin with the largest Michigan farms by Produce Safety Inspectors, and trickle down to smaller farms. With the help of a Produce Safety Technician, a farm can:

- Determine whether it is covered or exempt under the PSR.
- Identify areas of risk through completions of a risk assessment.
- Consider solutions to non-compliant farm activities and possible risk reductions for agricultural practices before, during, and after harvesting of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Perform an on-farm readiness review to gauge progress to PSR compliance.
- Complete a written food safety plan.
- Receive technical support or referrals for technical support in the farm's region.

Farmers may choose to utilize the technicians as much or as little as they see fit; the services of a Produce Safety Technician are completely confidential, voluntary, and free to farmers. It is also important to note that the role of technicians is educational; it is not equal to the regulatory role of the inspectors.

As of May 2018, the Marquette County Conservation District hired Landen Tetil, the U.P.'s only Produce Safety Technician. The 2013 Northern Michigan University B.S. graduate has been active in agriculture since her first farm job in 2007. In total, she brings to the produce safety table five years of experience in mid-scale commercial cropping and an additional six years of experience in small-scale diversified farming, primarily in vegetables and poultry. In 2015, she became trained in Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP), a voluntary food safety national program. Her practical experience combined with training received through the produce safety program makes her a valuable resource to U.P. farmers seeking compliance to the rule.

Landen's primary service area includes: Iron, Baraga, Dickinson, Delta, Marquette, Alger, Menominee, and Schoolcraft counties, but will assist any farmer in the Upper Peninsula, as needed.

To contact Landen, call (906)226-8871 x 105 or email [Landen.mqtcondist@gmail.com](mailto:Landen.mqtcondist@gmail.com).

### Upcoming fair dates:

August

- 2-5 Luce West Mackinac—Newberry
- 3-5 Alger—Chatham
- 9-12 Gogebic—Ironwood
- 9-12 Iron—Iron River
- 9-12 Marquette—Marquette
- 13-19 UP State Fair—Escañaba
- 23-26 Houghton—Hancock
- 28-Sept 3 Chippewa—Kinross

## Beef Meeting with Packer for Grass Finished Beef

By Frank Wardynski

Michigan State University Extension is hosting a meeting with guest speaker Charles Bradbury. Charles is the head of the Grassfed Beef Division of JBS packing. Charles is from Huntsville, TX. The meeting will discuss JBS purchasing of grassfed beef and their marketing price grid. The meeting will be conducted at the UP Research and Extension Center in Chatham on August 7 at 7:00pm EDT. Frank Wardynski is hosting the meeting. There is no charge for the meeting, however producers should call to RSVP at 906-884-4386. **Because Charles is coming in from Texas, an RSVP will allow the extension staff to contact participants if the meeting needs to be delayed or cancelled.**



## U.P. Potato Field Day

Wednesday, August 29th 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

VanDamme Farms, 2371 St. Nicholas Rd. Rock, MI 49880

Speakers/topics include:

- **MI & U.S. Potato Industry Overview** Mike Winkel, MPIC Executive Director
- **Seed Industry Update** Jeff Axford, MSPA Executive Director
- **Variety Trial Report** Chris Long, MSU Potato Specialist
- **Nematode Management** Dr. Marisol Quintanilla, MSU Entomology Specialist
- **Disease Management** Dr. Jaime Wilbur, MSU Plant Pathology
- **Pearl Millet Research Report** Jesse Cousineau, Cousineau Potato Farm

Dinner is sponsored by:



Question or concerns contact Monica Jean: (906) 786-3032 or [atkinmon@anr.msu.edu](mailto:atkinmon@anr.msu.edu)

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- 79% of U.S. consumers surveyed, agreed that print on paper is more pleasant to handle and touch when compared to other media, including 73% of 18 to 24 year olds.
- 73% feel that reading a printed book or magazine is more enjoyable than reading them on an electronic device.
- 68% find it easier to track their expenses and manage their finances when they are printed on paper.
- Mobiles or smartphones are seen as the least relaxing way to read with only 30% preferring this method.

### **VanDamme Farm Pasture Walk**

Frank Wardynski is conducting a pasture walk at TJ & J VanDamme Farms on August 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00 pm ET. The pasture walk will be conducted at 12617 Summer Meadow G.5 Rd, Rock, MI 49880. It is a dairy and potato farm with beef cattle. Pasture is one of the crops in their rotation and pasture locations change each year and there are no permanent fences. Come and join in the discussion as to how they graze dairy and beef cattle in their cropping rotation.

## The North Farm Skill-Seeker Workshop Series

The Michigan State University North Farm will be offering its annual Skill Seeker Workshop series for the 2018 season. These workshops, focused on topics relevant to small-scale farmers, homesteaders and home gardeners, will provide participants the opportunity to learn from university staff, local professionals and seasoned farmers. All courses meet at the North Farm located at N5431 Rock River Rd.

[Registration is strongly encouraged](#) Please call Abbey at (906)439-5058 or register online at [www.msunorthfarm.org](http://www.msunorthfarm.org).

### Flower Production • August 19 • 1-5 p.m.

Learn about variety selection, production management, bouquet arrangement and marketing with Shailah Bunce, Rock River Farm and Jeff Heidtman, Color Blind Gardens.

### Forest Resource Management • September 30 • 1-5 p.m.

Find out about forest resource management, developing a forest management plan and identifying the value of what may lie just outside your back door with Dan and Mary Rabine, Reh-Morr Farm, Holly Moss, MAEAP, and Matt Watkeys, District Forester.



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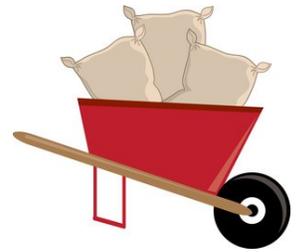
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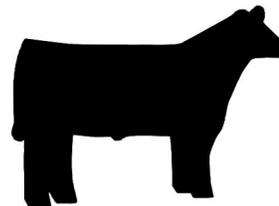
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**SHEEP HERD DISPERSAL SALE** Call or text (906) 280-3269 or call (906) 238-4468; 28 Suffolk/Polypae ewes; 8 young stock lambs; 2, 4-year old Suffolk rams.

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**JD 16' flex head** (model #216), \$1,900 OBO. **Beautiful property** in the Upper Michigan, 130 acres for sale or pasture for rent for livestock for the 2018 season. Beautiful river running through it. Great for hunting, building or developing, or simple grazing livestock. Land is divided into 9 paddocks with high tensile electric fence and 5 stock watering ponds. **Herd dispersal** 11 black Angus bred cows, 5-8 years old, 1100 lbs., start calving April 15th. Rock, MI (906) 359-4825.

## BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAMS BEING OFFERED AT UP STATE FAIR

Dr. Renee Coyer will be available to perform breeding soundness exams on bulls, bucks, and rams during this year's Upper Peninsula State Fair. Cost for testing will be \$62/animal.

Reserve your slot by calling Thompson Veterinary Clinic at (906) 341-2813.

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### ***Calendar of Events***

**Beef Meeting with Packer for Grass Finished Beef** - August 7th—UPREC in Chatham, 7 p.m.

**VanDamme Farm Pasture Walk**—August 8th—TJ & J VanDamme Farms , 6:00 p.m.

**Corn Field Day**—August 28th—Meintz Dairy Farm, Stephenson, 10:00a.m.-1:00 p.m. CT

**Potato Field Day**—August 29th—VanDamme Farms, Rock , 4-7 p.m.

**Soybean Field day**—September 4th—Forest Biomass Information Center, Escanaba, 6-7 p.m. ET

#### **North Farm Workshops**

Flower Production · August 19 · 1-5 p.m.

Forest Resource Management · September 30 · 1-5 p.m.

***Remember to connect to virtual learning breakfasts every Thursday 6:30—7 am!***

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