



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

September 2020

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

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In this issue:

Page 2
Hemp Variety Trial

Page 3
On-line resources from MSUE

Page 4
Pest Management Academy provides on-line course
Corn Nitrogen and Soil Health Project

Page 5
Classifieds
MI On-Farm Produce Safety program
Livestock Auction dates

Page 6
Advertisers

Page 7
Advertisers

Page 8
Market Report
Upcoming dates for MI On-Farm Produce Safety training

“What’s U.P. @ UPREC?” video series continues

The video series initiated by MSU Extension U.P. Field Crops Educator, Jim Isleib, on May 5, 2020 is continuing. The titles and links to these 2-9 minute YouTube videos through June 24 were provided in the July 2020 edition of the U.P. Ag Connections newsletter. Since then, eight additional videos have been posted:

	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>INTERNET LINK</u>
	Weather station 7/1/20	7:04	https://youtu.be/KxKd9rN3FW0
	Midseason cattle weighs 7/8/2020	2:05	https://youtu.be/oT7tvSA70Uk
	Cucumber harvest 7/13/20	3:26	https://youtu.be/Vi3v5m_H1-w
	Manure composting 7/17/20	5:59	https://youtu.be/l23RMynU_ng
	Flame weeding 7/29/20	4:03	https://youtu.be/bFfySm2JU9Q
	Seed saving garden 8/4/20	8:57	https://youtu.be/Lk1KFGaKx7w
	Pasture fencing 8/13/20	8:55	https://youtu.be/pP5fDHgfiWQ
	Pasture watering systems 8/13/20	4:56	https://youtu.be/gLd24RFFtgA

The purpose of the series is to provide a way for U.P. famers, ag industry and other interested people to stay informed about happenings at the MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham, MI, especially during the current pandemic. MSU Extension staff are under travel restrictions until further notice from Extension leadership.

You can receive notice on-line when new videos are added to the series by going to the MSU Extension Upper Peninsula Agriculture Facebook site and ‘liking’ it. The videos are all posted on this facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/MSUEUPAg/>. Another option is to subscribe to the YouTube channel where the videos are archived at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn5xv1IRZ_ieMSyxrT485IQ?view_as=subscriber. You will receive an automated notice as new videos are posted.

Upcoming UPREC videos will include: Pasture allocation, Fall calving, and the Apprentice Farmer Program.

MSU conducting hemp variety trials, partnering with Tribal Nations

Trials seek to identify genetics, management practices to support Michigan farmers

As hemp becomes a more popular crop among Michigan's farmers, Michigan State University (MSU) is expanding its research and outreach programs around this emerging commodity.

MSU researchers and partners currently have hemp trials ongoing at various locations across the state. The university's research started at the Campus Farms and Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center (UPREC) more than a year ago with funding from Project GREEN for grain and fiber variety trials.

"We had a research location in Chatham, one on campus at MSU, and a small demonstration plot at Waishkey Bay Farm in 2019," said James DeDecker, Director at UPREC. "Those plots were really our first look at hemp, and we got to learn quite a bit and can now ask some more informed questions."

DeDecker is partnering with Kurt Thelen, professor in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, on MSU's hemp research.

"We have a good balance of research between campus and UPREC with some overlap in genetics to evaluate latitudinal effects and some projects specific for each growing environment," Thelen said. "We've got a team approach to the way we're organizing this work. We have a plant pathologist, entomologist, weed scientist, agronomist and extension specialists all involved collectively in looking at the individual aspects of growing hemp."

Thelen said the research in East Lansing is part of a multi-state variety trial project that includes more than a dozen different Land Grant Universities growing the same varieties at different locations to collect a robust dataset.

"The goal is to get a better idea how some of these varieties perform in different regions of the U.S. and different production systems (i.e. conventional vs. organic). It's a pretty broad scale approach to looking at how best to grow this crop, targeting specific genetics to different regions of the country" Thelen said.

Coinciding with the multi-state variety trial, MSU has also partnered with Bay Mills Community College and the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, receiving a \$500,000 USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Tribal College Research Program grant to enhance hemp research capacity at Tribal Colleges in Michigan.

"We are trying to understand the potential impact hemp can have on economic development, as well as food and agriculture sovereignty in Tribal Nations," DeDecker said. "Our team hopes to engage with as many of the tribes in Michigan as we can to address their questions and needs related to hemp as a potential tool for economic development."

The collaboration serves as a catalyst for education and communication between MSU and the Tribal Nations, with MSU providing information and support to help those communities determine the best course of action for each tribe. Tribal partners are conducting hemp research at Waishkey Bay Farm owned by Bay Mills Community College and Ziibimijwang Farm, an enterprise of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians. Their grain and CBD hemp plots replicate research conducted at UPREC.

"We are using a discussion approach, trying to engage these communities to share their needs and experiences and ask questions. Our job is just to share information. When collaborating with Tribal Nations and Colleges, they take shared leadership and ownership over the project and make sure their priorities are driving our approach."

DeDecker and Thelen, along with tribal staff and other MSU Extension educators will develop a series of virtual winter meetings that seek to involve other Michigan tribes in the research. The information will also be shared widely with the public and regulatory agencies.

"All of the field data, all the variety trial data and all the management data from those reports will be shared broadly, so it can benefit any hemp grower," DeDecker said.

Michigan farmers have shown sporadic interest in growing hemp as markets have fluctuated over the last year. Eric Anderson, an MSU Extension Educator on the hemp team, said his goal is to stay up-to-date with the latest results from MSU's research and to funnel that information to growers interested in growing hemp.

MSU's hemp research focuses on two major uses of hemp, CBD and grain/fiber. The current studies are testing yield and quality of both.

"Like any variety trial, the basic objective is to understand how genetic differences between cultivars affect performance and performance for us is yield and quality. Quality means different things depending on the product we're talking about, so it could

be tensile strength in the fiber, it could be protein and oil content in the seed, or it could be the level of contaminants in the CBD flower,” DeDecker said.

The novelty of the crop presents challenges but also opportunities as variety trials push forward, DeDecker said. Regulation of the crop also comes into play, as researchers have to keep THC levels under government mandated guidelines.

“Last year we were generating grain and fiber data in a time where everyone was excited about CBD, and so we are some of the few researchers with grain and fiber data in the Midwest from last year,” he said. “The novelty of this crop plays a big factor with the learning curve of experts. It just takes one or two little variety trials and suddenly you're the expert. That's the environment that we're working in, which is pretty unusual compared to most of the things that we do.”

Hemp plants provide a variety of benefits to consumers and growers. Hemp fiber can be used in textiles, packaging or building materials. Hemp seed and grain can be used for food and animal feed. New research has shown that hemp can also be used as feedstock for advanced biomaterials.

Currently, the majority of hemp in Michigan is grown for the CBD market, a non-psychoactive cannabinoid which has been purported to provide certain health benefits. However, the number of grain/fiber growers increased significantly from 2019 to 2020.

Hemp's potential for Michigan's farmers is partly based on the plant's ability to thrive in the unique growing environment provided by the Great Lakes region, Thelen said.

“Hemp is a crop that does seem to be pretty well adapted to our climate,” he said. “Our research is aimed at making sure our farmers are positioned to take advantage of emerging markets and not put at a disadvantage relative to other states.

“We want to make sure that our growers have every opportunity to compete on a national scale when growing this crop. Hemp is not likely to be a large commodity crop like corn or soybean, but it's going to have its own unique niches. It is a crop that is a jack-of-all-trades type, there's a lot of different potential end uses.”

As the market for hemp products continues to establish itself, DeDecker and Thelen hope to continue to learn more about the crop's ability to grow in Michigan.

“In the immediate future, we hope to get some more years under our belt working with hemp,” Thelen said. “Whenever we make recommendations for growing crops, we want to have a number of different years of data, because every year is a different growing environment. We want to know what the best management practices are under a broad spectrum of growing conditions, including dry conditions like we're experiencing this year (in Summer 2020). It takes a robust body of data before you can make conclusions that are going to be able to withstand the test of time.”

Some useful on-line resources from MSU Extension for farmers and agribusiness:

Jim Isleib, MSUE

Nearly everyone is feeling pressure to access more and more information on-line. And it isn't going away, although I'm looking forward to being able to have direct person-to-person contact like before the coronavirus pandemic. In the meanwhile, here are some key websites to access good, timely information from MSU Extension:

Agribusiness Resources for Novel Coronavirus

https://www.canr.msu.edu/farm_management/Agribusiness-Resources-for-Novel-Coronavirus/

Rapid Response for Agriculture

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/agriculture/Rapid-Response-for-Agriculture/>

Including:

- Consumer Education and Purchasing Local
- MSU Extension CHAMP: COVID-19
- Responding to Changing Markets in Agriculture
- Managing Farm Stress
- COVID-19 Pandemic Response for Agriculture
- Extreme Weather Events and Agriculture

MSU Extension Field Crop Virtual Breakfast recordings, 2020 growing season (15-20 minute recordings)

https://www.canr.msu.edu/field_crops/virtual-breakfast/

MSU Extension Field Crop Webinar Series (including 2020 webinar recordings)

https://www.canr.msu.edu/field_crops/field-crop-webinar-series

MSU Extension Agriculture (full listing of on-line info, including plant and animal agriculture, ag economics, etc)

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/agriculture/index>

The MSU Integrated Pest Management Academy provides education AND convenient pesticide applicator recertification credits

This affordable, on-line program is interactive and designed to provide a comprehensive and convenient online learning experience. This self-paced course features university experts and a full-service help center with 24/7 technical support and support materials to learn how to easily navigate the course. Current topics include:

- An Introduction to IPM
- IPM Resources at MSU
- Plant Science
- Soils 101
- Identifying and Conserving Natural Enemies
- Conserving Pollinators
- Using Enviroweather to Assist IPM Program Decisions
- Scouting in Greenhouses
- Scouting in Perennial Crops
- Scouting in Vegetable Crops

The course is a combination of videos, resources and interactive content. To participate, a computer with an updated web browser, speakers and internet access are required. Users can [complete a systems check](#) to determine if their computer is capable of running the course.

The total cost of the course is \$10, payable online at the time of registration. Upon course completion, certified pesticide applicators in Michigan can request 6 credits (1A, 1B, Commercial Core or Private Core). Participants can also print a certificate of completion. Refer to the registration instructions below to create your community ID and sign-up for the course. It may take up to 24 hours for access to the course site to be granted. Contact the help desk 24/7 at 517-432-6200 or toll-free at 884-678-6200 for assistance.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Erin Lizotte at taylo548@msu.edu; all videos include closed captioning.

For further information or questions, please email Erin Lizotte at taylo548@msu.edu.

Registration instructions:

1. Create your **MSU Community ID** and **Password** (instructions will open in a new browser window): [Community ID Instructions](#). (canr.msu.edu/od/educational-technology/msu-community-id-instructions)
2. Log in to the registration system with your **Community ID** and **Password**: [Integrated Pest Management Academy Registration](#). (https://login.msu.edu/?App=D5000&service=https%3A%2F%2Fcaps.itservices.msu.edu%2Fj_security_check)
3. Follow the instructions to **register** and pay for the course. Upon registration, you will receive a receipt and instructions for accessing the course.

U.P. farms included in statewide corn nitrogen and soil health project

The purpose of this project funded by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Fertilizer Grant is to improve N management practices in corn consistent with the economic, agronomic and environmental goals of Michigan farmers, MDARD and the public. The MSU Extension Field Crops work team received financial support from MDARD for this two-year project beginning in 2019. Six U.P. farms allowed MSUE staff to collect corn stalk and soil samples prior to harvest in fall 2019. Some of the same farms are participating again in 2020.

The corns stalk samples are used to determine the nitrogen status of the corn after grain has filled. Of course, some of our U.P. corn does not reach physiological maturity (black layer) before it is chopped for silage. This is taken into account as data is collected. A 'regular' MSU soil sample is collected from each field as well as a soil health sample, which is sent to the soil health testing lab at the University of Missouri.

Sampling will take place shortly before corn harvest. The resulting data set will include over 100 Michigan corn fields, representing a wide variety of soil types and fertility, corn hybrids, planting dates, plant populations, crop rotations, field practices and more. It will present an interesting challenge for the MSU Field Crops team to analyze and find significance in this large data set. A final report will be prepared in 2021.

Sense of the MI Produce Safety Program

Michigan On-Farm Produce Safety program, or MOPS for short. It's a mouthful, and with many moving parts, it can be difficult to wrap your head around where to start, if it even applies to your farm, whether it's a good use of time...you get the idea.

The program is the collaborative brainchild of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), Michigan State University Extension (MSUE), and the Michigan Conservation District's Produce Safety Technicians (Techs). Three vastly different organizations, three different sets of goals and priorities. So, how do they work together, and more importantly, how do you go about getting the most bang for your (hypothetical) buck? MOPS is a free program, after all.

First, the produce safety program is divided by service provided to farmers. MDARD takes care of all things regulatory in regard to complying with the Food Safety Modernization Act's Produce Safety Rule. So, for folks who are legally required to comply with the Produce Safety Rule, MDARD will be who you interact with. Before you worry about an inspection, however, you can utilize the other two branches of the program, MSUE and the Techs, to prepare.

The non-regulatory side of MOPS can be categorized into education and technical assistance. This is where MSUE and the Techs come in, and here we see quite a bit of overlap. MSUE specializes in providing education related to food safety; resources such as workshops, templates, articles, videos, and even a podcast are readily available on their Agrifood Safety website. The Techs also provide some of this education but specialize more in the on-farm technical aspects of produce safety. Techs are readily available to come to your farm in-person, walk through your systems, and provide realistic feedback on what could increase your on-farm food safety, without breaking the bank. They even have a certificate program for farms who want to showcase their best food-safety behavior.

It is important to reiterate that all services MOPS provide are free of charge. It is even more important to note that any and all interactions with MSUE and Techs are completely confidential, even internally within MOPS. This means that no matter what, any personal information about you and your farm's food safety practices will never, ever, reach the ears of an MDARD inspector. We are here as friends, willing and able to help however much as you see fit – not here to turn you in – and we hope to hear from you soon.

Landen Tetil, Produce Safety Technician

Landen.mqtcondist@gmail.com or (906) 251-3061

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Mixed hay, large round bales, 800#, \$20/bale. Call Al (906)647-6697.

FOR SALE: Koyker 565 Loader with 7 ft bucket. Also has skid steer adapter. Fits JD 3000-5000 series tractors. \$2500; **Oliver 13 ft disk** with 18 inch scalloped blades, \$1095. Call Tolfree Farms (908) 884-2351 or email countryj@jamadots.com.

FOR SALE: Hay, large square bales 3x3x7.75 Timothy grass, 4,000 to sell. Former dairy farm doing all big square bales hay. Call Dave Bell in the EUP 906-440-6455 or email Bellsdairy@yahoo.com. Also a realtor in the UP so contact me for real estate here. Dave@smith-company.com

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Thursday, December 3rd

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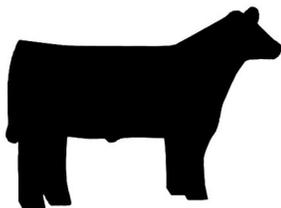
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Market Report			
Choice Steers			\$95-\$115 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers			\$85-\$103 per 100 lbs.
Hogs			\$38-\$43 per 100 lbs.
Lambs			\$120-\$150 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows			\$60-\$70 per 100 lbs.
Calves			\$50-\$110 per 100 lbs.
Goats			\$180-\$250 per 100 lbs.
Breeding and Feeder Animals			
Grade Holstein cows			\$1300-\$1750/head
Grade Holstein bred heifers			\$1200-\$1550/head
Feed Prices across the U.P.			
	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$11.28	\$225.50	\$160-342
Soymeal	\$19.99	\$399.75	\$372-450
Oats	\$13.13	\$262.50	\$210-340
Barley	\$11.80	\$236.00	\$190-310
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			