



Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center

Address: E3774
University Drive,
Chatham, MI
49816

Farm Manager:
Paul Naasz,
naasz@msu.edu

Acreage: 820 owned, 320
rented

Commodities: Beef,
Hemp, Forage, Organic
Vegetables, Small Grains

Annual Visitors: 900+

2024 Information

Outreach

- **UPREC 125th Anniversary Celebration:** On Aug. 10, 2024, UPREC hosted colleagues, partners and the general public for a half-day event celebrating the 125th anniversary of UPREC. One hundred seventy-four people attended to participate in presentations, displays, tours and a local food lunch.
- **Agripalooza Agriculture and Natural Resource Conservation Fair:** Organized by Marquette and Alger Conservation Districts, this event attracted 348 fifth graders from Marquette and Alger counties for exposure to 35 educational stations hosted by multiple partner agencies.
- **Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference (off-site):** The conference was held Feb. 20, 2024 at Bay College in Escanaba, MI, attracting 99 participants for four concurrent educational tracks focused on specialty crops (vegetables), field crops and forage, homesteading, and livestock topics.
- UPREC provided immersive field trip experiences for five different schools and a total of 281 students in spring of 2024.

Research

- **Building the grass-finished beef database: Nutrient density and transcriptomics (Jenifer Fenton, Ph.D., Jason Rowntree, Ph.D.):** Funded by the Greenacres Foundation, the project evaluates the nutrient density (fatty acids, micronutrients, polyphenols) of grass-finished beef fed different supplemental feeds (grass, distillers grain, finishing diet high in corn) and determine whether specific genes are up- or down-regulated in beef based on diet.
- **The Midwestern Hemp Research Collaborative: Participatory Research and Extension to Grow a Sustainable Hemp Industry (James DeDecker, Ph.D.):** Funded by USDA NIFA, the collaboration is among land-grant institutions in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana, Michael Fields Ag Institute, USDA, hemp suppliers and growers investigating hemp variety performance, agronomy and pest management at universities and 30+ commercial farms in the Midwest US.
- **Reduced tillage effects on soil health, greenhouse gasses and organic vegetable production (James DeDecker, Ph.D.):** This project is a comparison of reduced and no-till methods available to organic farmers assessing soil health, greenhouse gas flux and vegetable production outcomes.

