



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

February 2022

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 26 Issue 2

In this issue:

Retiring MSU Extension Educator Bids a Fond Farewell....

Jim Isleib, MSUE Upper Peninsula Crop Production Educator

With mixed feelings of joy, sadness, relief and satisfaction, I am making my exit in mid-February from my role as an Upper Peninsula extension agent. 32+ years is a pretty long stretch, and I have met many interesting people and made a lot of friends across the region. Working with farmers, gardeners, home and property owners, businesses and others has been a real pleasure for me. I expect I have learned more for myself than I have taught others.

The people of Alger County, where I made my home and raised my family since 1989, have made me feel welcomed and valued. Voter approval from Alger County residents of a special millage for the county MSU Extension program (5 times over the last 21 years) has been the most meaningful display of support I could hope for. My MSU Extension colleagues and myself here in Alger County are deeply appreciative.

I started my career as Alger County Extension Director & Ag/Natural Resources Agent. Over the years, the job and the entire organization have morphed and shifted, but my goal to provide people with useful, research-based information from MSU and other reliable sources hasn't changed. At present, I'm responsible for crop-based extension work across the entire region. Compared to the 'good old days', when a general-purpose ag agent served a single county, it is difficult, if not impossible, to create and maintain close relationships with individual farmers. This newsletter, initiated many years ago by Ben Bartlett, has provided a good link with U.P. farmers. Internet technology, including email, ZOOM meetings, web pages, and social media has also helped a very small U.P. ag extension group maintain connection. Thank you all for your interest.

MSU Extension is planning to replace my position with a new person, most probably located in Delta County. Another hay/forage-focused position for the eastern U.P. is also under consideration. I am optimistic that fresh, energetic people will keep the work of extension moving forward in our region. If you are aware of people who might be interested in U.P. extension crop work, please let them know about these possibilities. I'd be happy to talk to them.

I've been sorting through the files, bookcases, closets and photos in my office. It causes a person to reflect and consider a career of work and the people it has involved. Overall, I feel very blessed with the opportunity to live and work here, and serve the farming community in the U.P. I hope my efforts have helped some people. There's a lot of angles, but I'll take a shot at what I've enjoyed the most, and what I haven't....

Enjoyed:

- Meeting farmers and other ag people of all kinds from just about every corner of the U.P.
- Conducting on-farm projects with local farms on topics of interest
- Planning and conducting meetings, field days, pasture walks, etc.
- Working closely with fine MSU Extension colleagues
- Providing valuable services to the farming community (soil testing, diagnostic help, business planning, etc)
- Home gardening programs and individual advice

Not so much enjoyment:

- Budget battles to keep MSU Extension going
- Trying to keep up with technology (computer advances, cell phones, etc, etc)
- Office chores (lots of these – regular reporting to MSU, financial work, other MSU requirements)
- Pandemic restrictions (what a way to end a career!)
- Driving at night in snowstorms (done quite a lot of this)

All told, the enjoyable part greatly outweighs the other! I hope to see many of you in years to come...at ag events, the U.P. State Fair, or just 'around'. I and wife Diane will be staying put in Munising for the near future, maybe moving to Marquette County eventually to be closer to our kids and grandkids. I wish you all 'Happy Trails'!

Page 2-3

- Carrot variety report

Page 4

- Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program
- Farm Help Wanted

Page 5

- Advanced Grazing School
- Bull evaluation program seeking stakeholder recommendations

Page 6-7

- Advertisers

Page 7

- Market Report
- Classifieds

Page 8

- MCA/MSU Bull evaluation program

Michigan State University

AgBioResearch

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Seed to Kitchen Collaborative—2021 Carrot Variety Report

Management

In 2021, ten carrot varieties (five orange, five purple) were trialed at the MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham, MI. Plots 3.33 ft wide x 7 ft long were laid out in a RCBD design with 3-4 replications. Prior to planting, a cover crop of buckwheat was seeded in the field May 11 and terminated June 24. Fertility was applied just prior to planting, and consisted of a feather meal based 10-0-4 fertilizer from Morgan's Composting called Safe Green Lawn applied at 500 lbs/ac (0.011 lb/ft²). Raw carrot seed was direct-seeded in 3 rows per plot (13 inch spacing) July 15 on open raised beds made with a rototiller and custom bed shaper. Soil was kept moist with overhead irrigation until germination, and watered with overhead irrigation as needed throughout the growing period. Plots were thinned to 1 inch between carrots in-row on August 10. Weeds were controlled with flame weeding (pre-emerge), hoeing and hand weeding. Carrots were harvested October 14 (orange) and October 21 (purple).

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Market Class</u>	<u>Color</u>
Bejo	Adelaide	Nantes (baby)	Orange
Johnny's	Bolero	Nantes	Orange
High Mowing	Dolciva	Nantes	Orange
Bejo	Napoli	Nantes	Orange
Bejo	Yaya	Nantes	Orange
Johnny's	Deep Purple	Imperator	Purple
Siskiyou	Dragon	Imperator	Purple
Johnny's	Purple Elite	Imperator	Purple
Johnny's	Purple Haze	Imperator	Purple
Johnny's	Purple Sun	Imperator	Purple



Traits

Traits field: Marketable Count, Marketable Weight (kg), Unmarketable Count, Unmarketable Weight (kg), Plant Height (cm).

Notes on trait measurement:

Top height was measured before harvest at three points in each plot and averaged. Analysis was conducted at the per plot level. Comparisons were made within market classes (colors).

Quality evaluation

Chef taste testing:

Flavor evaluation was done by eight local chefs in the Marquette/Alger County area. Varieties were packed with an individual alphanumeric code (no variety names were included in boxes). Boxes were delivered to chefs, including instructions for evaluation and a QR code linking to Qualtrics where data was entered. Flavor intensity and complexity were rated on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high). Appearance, texture, root size, and overall flavor were rated from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). The likelihood that they would buy it for their restaurant (1=no way, 5=yes, definitely) and perceived ease of preparation (1=difficult, 5 = easy) were also rated.

Orange Carrots (field)

(* indicates varieties statistically similar to the “best” variety in each category shown in **BOLD**)

Variety	Total weight (lbs/plot)	Marketable Count (#/plot)	Marketable Weight (lbs/plot)	Unmarketable Proportion (%)	Overall Flavor (1-5)	Willingness to Purchase (1-5)
Adelaide	25.24	154.75	20.38	19%*	2.29	2.43
Bolero	35.55	146.75*	30.37	15%	3.29*	3.43*
Dolciva	28.40	123.50*	22.66	20%*	2.71*	3.14*
Napoli	42.51	121.75*	34.67	19%*	3.00*	3.00*
Yaya	34.84	136.75*	28.94	17%*	3.57	4.14

Purple Carrots (field)

(* indicates varieties statistically similar to the “best” variety in each category shown in **BOLD**)

Variety	Total weight (lbs/plot)	Marketable Count (#/plot)	Marketable Weight (lbs/plot)	Unmarketable Proportion (%)	Overall Flavor (1-5)	Willingness to Purchase (1-5)
Deep Purple	12.03	35.00	7.42	37%	3.87	3.86*
Dragon	20.91	57.00*	15.52*	26%	3.27*	3.27*
Purple Elite	20.75*	60.00*	17.07	18%	3.60*	3.80*
Purple Haze	15.37	64.33	12.57	18%*	3.60*	3.47*
Purple Sun	10.70	39.67	7.27	32%	3.80*	4.00



The Michigan Community Mediation Association (MCMA) has been awarded the Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program (MAMP) by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This program offers free mediation services to Michigan farmers and loggers to resolve their disputes outside of court. Farmers' disputes covered by this grant can range from contract issues, estate and probate complications, adverse determinations by the USDA, bankruptcy, divorce, and any other conflict they may face. Logging and timber disputes that involve the Forest Service or the Natural Resource Conservation Service are also covered.

MCMA is an advocacy, not-for-profit association for the 17 Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) mediation centers that cover all 83 counties in Michigan. The centers are partially funded by the Michigan Supreme Court State Court Administrative Office (SCAO).

Farmers having issues with local ordinances such as townships when it comes to using their property for weddings or wanting to put up a local produce stand are examples of when mediation can be utilized. More topics to mediate include property disputes, farm succession, estate planning, agricultural and rural development loans, wetland determinations, etc.

"Michigan's farmers work to feed our communities and families 24/7, 365 days a year and mediation provides an avenue for them to be an integral part of the conflict resolution process. MDARD is proud to support MCMA," said Gary McDowell, MDARD Director. "I encourage farmers to look into mediation as a viable option for resolving conflict."

Mediation is a confidential process where disputing parties discuss their issues with a neutral third party, the mediator, who will guide the process for a productive conversation and work towards a resolution. Agricultural mediators are trained in USDA issues and this process allows for all participants to give input so that everyone involved is heard.

"Farmers already have heavy issues to navigate on a daily basis," said Kelly Turner, CEO of Potato Growers of Michigan. "Whether it's a supply chain shortage, finding workers, or navigating continually changing weather conditions. What they don't need is to have extra legal issues hanging over their head in the years to come. Now they can contact MCMA and request a free mediation to resolve any dispute they may be facing."

CDRP mediators are required to complete 40 hours of SCAO-approved General Civil training or 48 hours of SCAO-approved Domestic training, practical experience supervised by seasoned mediators, and continuing education. To mediate agricultural cases, the mediators are also required to participate in 20 additional hours of advanced training.

"Our mediators are highly skilled and trained on how to best serve their community members facing conflict in a respectful, professional manner," said Shannon Taylor, Director of Upper Peninsula Commission of Area Progress (UPCAP) Conflict Resolution Program and MCMA's Training Committee Chairwoman. "I am certain they will bring this same level of expertise to the Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program and to our farmers."

Farmers who wish to request a mediation or for more information can contact MCMA at www.micommunitymediation.org email micommunitymediationassoc@gmail.com or by calling 800-616-7863

Respectfully submitted by Nikki Dowd-McKechnie, Executive Director, E.U.P. Community Dispute Resolution Center

Help Wanted

Seeking an experienced farmer to help with cattle operation and grain crops on an 800+ acre farm in Garden, Michigan on the Upper Peninsula. Now accepting applications. Farmer is responsible for daily care, health and over all well-being of cattle and will have experience in hay or grain production. Applicants should have the ability to lift up to 50lbs and to operate various farm equipment and provide basic repair and maintenance. Compensation is competitive based on experience. Housing is available for this position.

Please forward a summary of your current skills and relevant work history to deltagardenfarm@gmail.com or contact us at 773-929-6007. Please also include a contact number so we can call you to discuss the opportunity further.

[Michigan State University Extension](#) will be conducting an **Advanced Grazing School February 24, and 25, 2022**, in the eastern Upper Peninsula (Waishkey Bay Farm, 10135 W. Mills Rd, Brimley, MI 49715) in hopes of attracting graziers from across the state. This workshop is for graziers that have multiple years of experience, use a system of rotational grazing, and want to further enhance the outcomes of their grazing efforts. The emphasis of this workshop will not be on the right thing to do, but on ideas and information a producer can use to further their grazing program. Therefore, it will be critical for each person to be prepared to look at their operations and be ready to write a work plan for the next year and the next 5 years. Each person will be expected to share some of their ideas and participate in the discussion.

Renowned grazing expert, Ben Bartlett will be the featured presenter. MSU Extension Educators, Kable Thurlow and Frank Wardynski are organizing the activities and will share in teaching and leading group discussion. Also, MSU Extension Specialists Jason Rowntree and Paul Gross, Extension Educator will give presentations.

The goal of the workshop is to have each participant become exposed to some of the newest information on grazing and to leave with a workbook of action plans for their operation. This workshop wants to help you carve out the time, be exposed to new thinking, and most importantly, put a plan together to move your grazing program to a new level of performance. Additionally, this workshop will become the initial planning session for summer pasture walks at various locations across the state.

Participants can register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/advancedgrazingschool2022>

The cost will be \$150/person if signed up by February 20, 2022. Group discounts will be given to farms bringing more than one participant, cost for group participation is \$130/person. The program is limited to 30 people, and we encourage farms to bring two people for group work. **Registration deadline is February 20, 2022.** For more information contact Kable Thurlow at 989-426-7741 or thurlowk@msu.edu or Frank Wardynski at 906-884-4386 or wardynsk@msu.edu.

Help Wanted

Partridge Creek Farm, in partnership with Ishpeming School District No. 1, is building a downtown Intergenerational Farm and farm-to-school program and we are seeking a farm manager to help guide the farm planning, curriculum writing and eventually oversee the farm operations. [Here is the role description.](#) Please reach out to May with any questions, may@partridgecreekfarm.org.

Bull Evaluation Program Seeking Stakeholder Recommendations

While the MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation is proceeding as scheduled in 2022, the committee has started discussing options for the future of the program. New management needs to be recruited and facility options need to be weighed. Potential facility options include continuing in the program's current location, moving the program to a different location, or other opportunities not yet identified. The committee welcomes comments, recommendations, and interest from stakeholders as decisions will need to be made soon for next year's program. Suggestions can be submitted by calling George Quackenbush, MCA Executive Vice-President at 517-347-8117 or by email to info@micattlemen.org. All input will be offered for the program committee's consideration.



MENOMINEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU®

President: Lee Marciniak

Secretary: Shannon McHugh-Sanders

(906) 779-1774

S&R  Weston, WI
Angus (715) 573-4924
www.srangus.com

Service age bulls, open females and show prospects for sale private treaty. Bulls are fertility tested and bred for calving ease and performance.



At the heart of growing America

100 years of Ag Experience

Loans, ag taxes, farm records, consulting

1801 N. Lincoln Road, Suite A, Escanaba, MI

(906) 786-4487 Fax: (906) 786-3450

Johnson Brothers Livestock

3740 18th Rd. Escanaba, MI

Buying or Hauling Cattle

St. Louis—Mondays, Gaylord—Wednesdays

Call Gary Johnson

Office (906) 786-4878 Gary Cell (906) 235-0099

Steve Cell (906) 399-2858



*Working to build
a vibrant U.P. food
economy since 1971*

Open Daily, 8 to 9 · Everyone Welcome
906-225-0671 · 502 W Washington St
www.marquettefood.coop

REGISTERED MAINE ANJOU AND ANGUS

CLAY KNOLL FARMS

OPEN & BRED HEIFERS AND BREEDING AGE
BULLS AVAILABLE

BREEDING CATTLE TO IMPACT THE
PRESENT AND INFLUENCE THE FUTURE.

BREEDING STOCK—BULLS
SHOW PROSPECTS—STEERS

DUANE & LISA SIMPKINS & SONS

DUANE CELL 989-329-6141

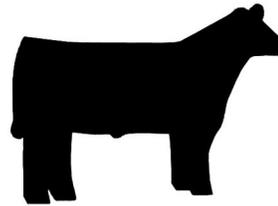
LISA CELL 989-578-0328

GARY & JAN SIMPKINS

HOME 989-426-8185

CELL 989-329-4668

GLADWIN, MI



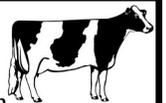
Ray's Feed Mill

Ration & Crop
Consultants
Feed • Seed • Fertilizer



(800) 832-1822 or (906) 466-2231
Bark River & Norway

Rosebush Sale Barn, Inc.



Sale 1st Wednesday of each month

Baby heifer & bull calves sell every Tuesday at noon

Over 40 years experience in Dairy Business

If you're thinking about selling your herd, or a portion of it,
call us! We can help!

Hay & Straw available

Robert Filhart (989) 330-6005

www.rosebushsalebarn.com



Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association

WAUKON, IOWA
Feeder Sales Schedule

• 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

(563) 568-4501

www.equitycoop.com

United

Producers, Inc.

Farmer owned. Farmer values.

St. Louis Sale every Monday
Collection point in Escanaba
Call for more information (989) 681-2191



Skidders

Pickford, MI
(906) 647-5655 or
(877) 647-2500

Kubota, AGCO, Massey-Ferguson, New Idea, Hesston,
Gehl, Bush Hog, H&S, and Kverneland

Your source for Polled Genetics

Richlo Dairy Farms

Engadine, MI

*Polled Holstein, Jersey & Norwegian Red Bulls
available!*

Employment Opportunities!

*For all information on polled bulls in AI, call
Jonathan (906) 477-6505*

EQUITY

Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association

*Collecting Cattle on Tuesdays at the
Larry Linsmeier Farm north of Menominee, MI*

(906) 863-8123

www.equitycoop.com

SMC

Stephenson Marketing Cooperative

We want to be your first choice!
Agricultural Services & Supplies

Stephenson, MI

(800) 445-6167

Powers, MI

(800) 962-3008

Aurora, WI

(800) 962-3007

Marlette Livestock Auction

Monthly Dairy & Feeder Cattle Auctions
Sale Date 2/12/22

Featuring Dairy Cattle, Cow/Calf Pairs & Bred Brood Cows,
Breeder Bulls, & Feeder Steers & Heifers

Hay & Straw Auction - Every Monday @ 12:00 PM

1000+ Small Squares & 150+ Rounds/Large Squares Weekly

Livestock Auction - Every Monday @ 1:00 PM

Including Calves, Sheep & Goats, Feeders, Hogs, Bulls, Beef, &
Butcher Cows



6381 Euclid St., Marlette, MI 48453
Robert Filhart, Owner (989)330-6005
Haley Filhart, Owner (989)430-2055

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Angus bull, AI sired, Born 9-9-21, Sire is Niagara,
Maternal sire is J. Edgar Hoover, Select Sire & Genex breeding,
AI Breeding for 43 years. Call (906) 265-5217.

FOR SALE: Simmental Bulls, mature and young, registered and
non-registered. Call Duane Kolpack (906) 362-6862.

FOR SALE: 2nd and 3rd crop alfalfa, small square bales.
Marenger Potato Farm, Flat Rock. (906) 384-6587.

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

Market Report

Choice Steers	\$110-\$145 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$100-\$128 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$48-\$59 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$200-\$310 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$65-\$75 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$75-\$105 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$200-\$375 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1700/head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$2100/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$15.68	\$313.65	\$265-440
Soymeal	\$27.16	\$543.25	\$500-624
Oats	\$18.25	\$365.00	\$320-420
Barley	\$13.91	\$278.25	\$200-394
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

Michigan State University
Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center
P.O. Box 168, E3774 University Drive
Chatham, MI 49816

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #77
SAULT STE MARIE, MI
49783



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Serving the Upper Peninsula Agricultural Industry

Michigan State University Extension is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status.

U.P. Ag Connections appreciates the support of this newsletter by our advertisers, however in no way does this imply endorsement of any specific products or services.

If you do not wish to receive this publication, please contact Michelle at colema98@msu.edu or (906) 439-5114

**MCA/MSU Bull
Evaluation Program**

34th Annual Bull Sale

Open House

Saturday, March 5, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

375 Mt. Hope Road, Crystal, MI 48818

Angus, Simmental, SimAngus, RedAngus,
Charolais, Hereford, Balancer

Sale: March 19, 2022 | 12:30 p.m.
www.MIBulls.com

**Michigan
Cattlemen's
Association**

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Real time bidding & proxy bidding available.
DVAuction
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions
This sale will be broadcast live on the internet.