



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

July 2020

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

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U.P. farmers pressing on....

The current problems caused by the coronavirus pandemic affect Upper Peninsula agriculture just as much as farming everywhere else in the U.S. It is healthy for all of us to search for 'silver linings' – even little things - that have come about from the crisis that show promise of long-term, positive change. In last month's U.P. Ag Connections "News and Views" article, James Dedecker pointed out three potentially positive outcomes: "Educating Consumers about Food Systems", "Focusing Research Efforts" and "Enhancing Digital Outreach". Keeping a positive outlook as much as possible will help us manage this unpredictable situation until we get back to a more 'normal' life.

One of my main efforts during the COVID-19 restrictions on MSU Extension direct-contact with the public has been a video series called "What's U.P. @ UPREC?". For people that don't like acronyms, "UPREC" is MSU's Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center at Chatham, MI (formerly called the (U.P. Experiment Station). The video series has a couple purposes: 1) keep the U.P. farming community informed about MSU ag research work conducted at Chatham and 2) provide information on farming and ag research for the general public.

I received special permission to travel to Chatham from my home office in Munising to work on this project. The staff at UPREC has been wonderfully cooperative, providing interviews, talking about projects and activities, posing for photos, reviewing, editing and improving the final product. We are all very eager for you to take a look at these videos. You can see them on the 'MSU Extension Upper Peninsula Agriculture' Facebook page, or go directly to the YouTube channel. No password is needed. Subscribing to the YouTube channel will get you an on-line notice each time a new video is available.

YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn5xv1IRZ_ieMSyxrT485IQ?view_as=subscriber

Facebook: MSU Extension Upper Peninsula Agriculture: <https://www.facebook.com/MSUEUPAg/>

Facebook: MSU UPREC: <https://www.facebook.com/MSU.UPREC/>

Here is a list of the currently available videos. More are planned through the 2020 season.

TOPIC	LENGTH	Youtube link
North Farm replace hoophouse plastic 5/5/20	5:31	https://youtu.be/Ar-MveVRttM
Pastures and cattle 5/5/20	4:34	https://youtu.be/VtLmsRGQMqM
Weaning beef calves 5/12/20	4:16	https://youtu.be/880oLFF7y3M
Planting onions 5/21/20	5:00	https://youtu.be/_4P55qhHO9k
Planting oats 5/20/20	5:26	https://youtu.be/n5p4stVdKcW
Weaning follow-up 5/20/20	2:59	https://youtu.be/QdbLPB1a3DI
Weighing yearling cattle for SARE trial 6/3/20	7:03	https://youtu.be/WFQY16M9MtQ
Cereal rye variety trial for distillers grain 6/3, 5/20	4:20	https://youtu.be/-6nnpG7HjfE
Planting organic dry bean drought resilience plots 6/5/20	6:25	https://youtu.be/WmDrHqPOESM
Interseeding cover crops in corn Menominee Co 6/18/20	2:00	https://youtu.be/7BlbupuvnoA
Haymaking - mowing and baling 6/16/20	9:59	https://youtu.be/oPgZAUcsPdI
Haymaking - wrapping balage 6/15/20	4:04	https://youtu.be/4EgVE4mX5LI
Annual forage crop trial 6/16/20	6:11	https://youtu.be/KkqE1SXP-xw
CBD hemp trial 6/17/20	7:38	https://youtu.be/Tumi6mgdt0Y
North Farm cover crops 6/17/20	4:49	https://youtu.be/vwhfAY2-t8I
Harvest alfalfa test plots 6/24/20	4:19	https://youtu.be/kwTOGh94heU

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Extension

	COVID 19 Related Programs Available to Farmers			
	General webpage where all farm and coronavirus-related articles are going			
	https://www.canr.msu.edu/farm_management/Agribusiness-Resources-for-Novel-Coronavirus/			
Contact Person	Program Name	Administered By	Who Qualifies	What it does
John Jones	Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program - EIDL	Small Business Administration	Farmers added in Mar 2020- Less than 500 Employees.	Loan/Forgiven? - \$10,000 for an temporary economic injury with fast processing. Forgivable if used for payroll expenses.
John Jones	Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program - EIDL	Small Business Administration	Small businesses that have suffered losses in Federal Disaster areas. The CARES Act expanded the program to make it easier for borrowers adversely affected by COVID-19 to get a loan especially farmers.	Loans up to \$150,000 for an economic injury. Maturity up to 30 years and interest rates up to 3.75%. Intended for payroll and other operating expenses.
Jones, John <jonesjo@msu.edu>				
Jon Laporte	Federal Disaster Loans	USDA-FSA	Must have farm located in disaster county. County receives declaration of disaster from Secretary of Ag or US President. Only 7 counties in Michigan have received a declaration.	Loan - Restore/replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation, refinance
LaPorte, Jonathan <laportej@msu.edu>				
John Jones	Paycheck Protection Program- PPP	SBA funded by Fed Government CARES Act	Business (including Farms) with less than 500 Employees includes: qualifying compensation, vacation, medical, health ins, retirement, payroll taxes. 60% must be payroll related for forgiveness qualification. 40% other forgivable expenses are mortgage interest, rent, and utilities. 24 weeks or until 12-31-20 allowed for the qualified expenses spend down. Updated on 6-8-2020	Loan/Forgiven -- Pays for 2 and 1/2 months of Payroll including self-employed individuals and qualifying other expenses.
Jones, John <jonesjo@msu.edu>				
Stan Moore	DMC - Dairy Margin Coverage	USDA-FSA	Dairy Producers (43.6% of Michigan Dairies enrolled for 2020 coverage)	Pays when Milk Margins are below thresholds
Stan Moore (moorest@msu.edu)				
Stan Moore	Families First Coronavirus Response Act	Fed - IRS	Most farms. Farms under 50 employees are required to pay for 2 weeks of leave taken under the act, but may be exempt from the additional 10 weeks of leave (school closing related)	FFCRA covers up to 12 weeks of leave taken between 4/1/2020 – 12/31/2020.
Stan Moore (moorest@msu.edu)				
Roger Betz	Michigan Disaster Assistance program	Michigan	A qualified loss of 25% or more in major enterprises or a qualified loss of 50% or more in production of any 1 crop Producers in USDA Declared Disaster counties	Loan at 1%, 5 years, up to \$3 million
Betz, Roger <betz@msu.edu>				
John Jones	SBA Express Bridge Loan	Small Business Administration	Existing SBA Customers	Help to overcome the temporary loss of revenue and can be a term loans or used to bridge the gap
Jones, John <jonesjo@msu.edu>				
John Jones	SBA Debt Relief	Small Business Administration	Existing SBA Customers	SBA will pay 6 months of principal, interest, and any associated fees that borrowers owe for all current 7(a), 504, and Microloans in
Jones, John <jonesjo@msu.edu>				
John Jones	Employee Retention Benefits	IRS	Employers are eligible for the credit for any quarter in which they have either had to fully or partially suspend operations because orders due to COVID-19, or if they have had more than a 50% decline in gross receipts as compared to the same quarter a year ago. For employers that averaged 100 or less full-time employees in 2019	Retain affected employees to receive refundable tax credit
Jones, John <jonesjo@msu.edu>				
Melissa McKendree Frank Wardynski Roger Betz	Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)	USDA	A producer (either a person or a legal entity) must have an average adjusted gross income of less than \$900,000 for tax years 2016, 2017, and 2018. The \$900,000 limit does not apply to producers for which 75% or more of adjusted gross income comes from farming, ranching, or forestry. Commodities that did not experience a price drop of 5% or more are ineligible for CFAP payments, though the USDA may reconsider excluded commodities in light of credible evidence of a 5% price decline.	Up to \$250,000 per person or legal entity; corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), and limited partnerships are eligible for up to \$750,000 if they have at least have three shareholders that meet labor/management contribution requirements
McKendree, Melissa <mckend14@msu.edu> Betz, Roger <betz@msu.edu> Wardynski, Frank <wardynsk@msu.edu>				

Relevant to all Producers- General		Links
General CFAP Website		https://www.farmers.gov/cfap
Stakeholder toolkit.		https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CFAP_StakeholderToolkit_5-28-2020.pdf
CFAP Calculator (note this helps to auto populate the application)		
Overview of CFAP from Texas A&M		https://www.afpc.tamu.edu/research/publications/files/699/RR-20-02.pdf
MSU/Clemson CFAP Overview		https://lgpress.clemson.edu/publication/the-long-awaited-coronavirus-food-assistance-program-cfap-for-farmers/
SPANISH- MSU/Clemson CFAP Overview		https://lgpress.clemson.edu/publication/el-tan-esperado-programa-de-asistencia-alimentaria-frente-al-coronavirus-cfap-para-agricultores/
Livestock (Beef/Hogs/Sheep)		
USDA CFAP Livestock Website		https://www.farmers.gov/cfap/livestock
Dairy		
USDA CFAP Dairy Website		https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/FSA_CFAP_Dairy_Fact-Sheet.pdf
MSU/Clemson CFAP Dairy Article		https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/coronavirus-food-assistance-program-cfap-for-dairy-farmers
Specialty Crops (field crops)		
USDA CFAP Non-Specialty Crops Website		https://www.farmers.gov/cfap/specialty
Non-Specialty Crops		
USDA CFAP Specialty Crops Website		https://www.farmers.gov/cfap/non-specialty
Wool		
USDA CFAP Wool Website		https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/FSA_CFAP_Wool_Fact-Sheet.pdf



Allison Stawara describes the 2020 CBD hemp variety trial in place at UPREC in Chatham, Michigan.

During this period of reduced contact with U.P. farmers, Jim Isleib has started an on-line, video project to keep people informed about current activities at the MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center at Chatham, MI. He's calling it "What's U.P. @ UPREC?". The videos are short, 4-5 minutes, and feature interesting activities going on at the Center. Please check it out at [MSU Extension Upper Peninsula facebook page](#) or Google **youtube what's up at UPREC**. He plans to add new video regularly through the summer.

The 2020 Michigan Good Food Summit is going virtual!



The 2020 Michigan Good Food Summit is moving online.
We are working to schedule an in-person event in fall 2021.

This series of virtual gatherings will feature stories, workshops, and panel discussions from communities and organizations across Michigan.

Since 2010, people across the state and country have gathered at the Michigan Good Food Summit to network, share, reflect, and learn about good food work happening in Michigan.

While we will miss gathering in-person this year, the 2020 Michigan Good Food Summit Webinar Series will still celebrate achievements, explore new directions, and launch a renewed effort to advance a good food system in Michigan that promotes equity, sustainability, and thriving economies.

The 2020 virtual summit will be an engaging event to set the stage for the next 10 years of good food systems in Michigan!

How to Participate: Stay tuned for more information including registration, request for presenters, and sponsorship!

Scholarships will be made available.

For more information please contact ddrago@dmsevents.com

www.michiganfood.org/summits

Expanding Poultry and Meat Processing in the U.P.

It's been a hard time for animal ag. The price a farmer can get has gone down as meat demand has shot up. Markets are temporarily shut for sales to schools, restaurants and institutions. Operations at some of the largest national meat processing plants have slowed, creating a bottleneck for farmers here in the U.P. Our local meat sales matter. Selling locally sustains farms and gets customers the products they may not find on big grocery store shelves.

We at Sommers Sausage are investing in processing capacity to better work with farmers to get their livestock processed.

Sommers Sausage will soon be able to butcher livestock right on the farm. Our new mobile slaughter equipment lets us safely slaughter livestock wherever they may be. On-farm slaughter is a natural and humane way to harvest. We've piloted this equipment at nearby small farms. Now, we're excited to soon offer this service to everyone.

We've also invested in commercial poultry processing equipment, the first in the U.P. We estimate that this equipment lets us process, package and have your birds ready-to-go within a day. With us, a farmer can worry less about processing and more about production.

It's important we band together as Yoopers to take care of each other during this unprecedented time. "I've lived in Crystal Falls 33 years and been in business for 28 of those." says owner Pat Sommers, "I know my customers and their need for these new services. We're glad we can offer these services now, especially when the U.P. needs it."

For more information about these new options, visit the website at <http://www.sommerssausageshop.com/index.html> or reach out to Pat at sommerssausage@att.net or 906-284-0732.

Market Report

Choice Steers	\$95-\$102 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$75-\$90 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$24-\$30 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$130-\$160 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$55-\$65 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$50-\$120 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$200—\$300 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1300-\$1600/head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1300-\$1575/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$11.34	\$226.75	\$175-342
Soymeal	\$19.75	\$395.00	\$372-450
Oats	\$13.50	\$270.00	\$240-340
Barley	\$11.80	\$236.00	\$190-310
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

Classifieds

FOR SALE: 3 Registered Dexter bulls, 6 years, 18 months and 8 months of age. All red, PHA and Chondro free and test 9/10 for tenderness. Tolfree Farms (908) 884-2351 or email countryj@jamadots.com.

FOR SALE: Reg. Shetland Sheep closed flock. Producers of winning fleeces at Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Show. Excellent spinning fleeces. 10 ewes, 6 wethers, and 1 polled ram. Would like to sell all together. Owner selling due to medical reasons. Rick (906) 789-9718.

FOR SALE: Pregnant Black Angus Cows, most due in the month of May, but possibly into the month of June. Contact Jon (906)265-9333 or email jahlberg@fast-air.net

FOR SALE: Mixed hay, large round bales, 4'x4', \$25/bale. Call Al (906)647-6697.

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

Beautiful property in the Upper Michigan, 130 acres In Perkins for sale or pasture for rent for livestock for the 2020 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. Call (906) 359-4825.

FARM FOR SALE: Upper Peninsula Farm with over 1,100 acres, water access, maple syrup production, and much more! **Shady Lane Farms**
<http://shadylnfarms.wixsite.com/shadylnfarms>
Henry DeGroot (906) 238-4251
hjdegroot@alphacomm.net

FOR SALE: John Deere B. Clean, less than 50 hrs on rebuild. **Allis-Chalmers C.** New paint, runs good. **Hay Hauler.** Hauls up to 10—4x6 round bales, use spear on back, don't have to unhook. Call Terry (906)644-2777.

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 Haley Filhart, Owner (989)430-2055



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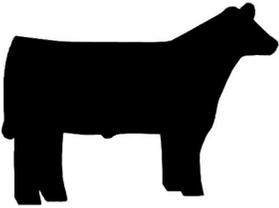
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Water Testing for Your Produce Farm

For many folks, it is that time of year to pull their annual water samples for testing. Farmers get their water tested for a variety of reasons, mainly focused on the health and quality of the water that ultimately ends up with a customer. The water chain on a farm, especially a produce farm, where many of the products may not go through a cooking step to reduce pathogens before eating, is critical to managing on-farm food safety. For produce that gets eaten raw, such as lettuce or melons, all water – from irrigation, to rinsing or dunking in a packhouse, to the water used to wash worker’s hands and tools before handling or harvesting, impacts the quality of the produce. Ensuring your farm has access to clean water goes a long way in providing safe and healthy food for your customers.

For farms needing to comply with the federal law on produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), it is not always easy to get the right water test. There is a small, specific list of FSMA-approved water tests to choose from, and just about every water lab calls the tests something different. The tests also vary depending on whether you are using the source for production water (irrigation, crop sprays, etc.) or post-harvest water (washing, cooling, handwashing, etc.).

To clear the muddy waters of water-testing regulations, there are a few important tools to add to your food safety toolbox. I have created a table of water labs in the Upper Peninsula that offer one or more of the FSMA-approved tests, which includes contact information, type of water (production or post-harvest), the test name to request, and hours of operation for each lab. Additionally, I have created a ‘Finding a Water Testing Lab’ factsheet to help you choose the right lab and test for your farm.

Lastly, a map of all Michigan water labs that offer at least one of the FSMA-approved tests, created by MSU Extension, can be found here: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1GUvGYw8LUWIC9ogzjgJl6XhH-N9SBkXS&ll=44.430863287405465%2C-85.73708445&z=6>

To learn more about assessing produce safety risks on your farm and to earn a produce safety certificate from the state of Michigan, contact your local Produce Safety Technician at Landen.mqtcondist@gmail.com or (906) 251-3061