



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

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Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

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My name is Michelle Sweeten. I would like to introduce myself as the new Michigan State University Forage and Livestock Extension Educator in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. I grew up on a hobby farm in Northern Indiana. Growing up I was active in both 4-H and FFA. This led me to degrees in Agricultural Education from Purdue University. Upon graduation my husband and I started our forage-based farm in Indiana.

While in Indiana I spent several years working as an agronomist. My time was primarily spent scouting corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa as well as taking soil samples and the subsequent fertilizer recommendations. I also have experience teaching at several community colleges and public schools as well as conservation districts.

In 2015 we moved our farm to the Eastern Upper Peninsula. The farm continues to be forage-based, focusing on grass-fed beef and timothy/legume hay. I enjoy my time rotating and checking our cattle. We have worked with MSUE in the past researching soil health and the effects of pasture renovation utilizing annual crops and bale grazing. It has been exciting to see our soil health improvement.

When I am not working, I enjoy exploring the outdoors with our four children and training our equine and border collies.

I am very excited to be the new Michigan State University Extension Educator in the UP in this new position focusing on both forages and livestock producers. I am looking forward to working with local producers and helping them find solutions for their individual operations. I will be servicing Luce, Mackinac, Chippewa and surrounding counties. You can contact me via email sweeten1@msu.edu



Get Ready for the Elimination of Over-the-Counter Microbial Drugs

By Frank Wardynski and Phil Durst, Michigan State University Extension

Livestock producers will not be able to purchase antibiotics without a prescription after June of 2023. They will need a Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship to get a prescription.

“Hey Dad, will you stop at the farm supply store and pick up a bottle of penicillin and some oxytet. – please?” While that may be something you have said and continue to say, the window of opportunity for doing so will soon be closing because of an FDA directive.

The United States Food and Drug Administration, Center for Veterinarian Medicine (CVM) has issued Guidance for Industry (GFI) #263. In June of 2023, livestock producers will no longer be able to purchase “medically important” antimicrobials over the counter. Medically important antimicrobials are ones that are used in human medicine as well as veterinary medicine. Penicillin and oxytetracycline are medically important antimicrobials that are commonly purchased over the counter at local farm stores or on-line from veterinarian supply stores without needing a prescription from a veterinarian. GFI #263 is the latest of several guidances issued to reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance and applies to all animals, whether farm animals or companion animals.

GFI #209, *The Judicious Use of Medically Important Antimicrobial Drugs in Food-Producing Animals* was the first guidance issued by the CVM in a plan to combat microbial resistance to antibiotics deemed medically important.

GFI #209 was published in April 2012 and started the plan to:

1. Limit medically important antimicrobial drug use for the treatment of food-producing animals needed for animal health.
2. Use of these drugs will include veterinary oversight or consultation.

GFI #209 was directed towards eliminating the use of antibiotics to improve animal performance by increasing growth or improving feed efficiency. It also is an important first step indicating that all antibiotic drugs would be administered by veterinary prescription or directive.

GFI #213 was published in 2013 and was fully implemented January 1, 2017. This guidance introduced the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) which indicates that antimicrobials administered via the feed and water would be under the guidance of a veterinarian and could only be used for medical purposes. This guidance eliminated the use of antibiotics to promote weight gain and improve feed efficiency. Antibiotics can only be used to treat animals for health purposes.

Like the requirement for cattle producers to have a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) to get a VFD from a veterinarian, this new directive also requires a VCPR to get a prescription for drugs that you currently pick up at the farm supply or order online.

A VCPR is a formal agreement between the veterinarian and a cattle producer (client) and meets the following requirements.

1. A veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of (an) animal(s) and the need for medical treatment;
2. Client (the owner of the animal or animals or other caretaker) has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian;
3. There is sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) by the veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s); and

4. The practicing veterinarian is readily available for follow-up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy;
5. Such a relationship can exist only when the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of examination of the animal(s), and/or by appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept.

Back in 2017 as the VFD rules were being implemented, many livestock producers did not have a VCPR in place, and consequently, were not able to get a VFD. As producers began calling local veterinarians to establish VCPRs, they quickly found it difficult to find vet services to accommodate all the requests. The situation with veterinarians serving food animal producers has not improved and is especially limiting in some rural areas. That won't be an excuse.

Livestock producers should seek veterinarian services as soon as possible to develop a VCPR. There are many livestock producers that use antibiotics at a minimal level. Beef cow-calf producers particularly have seldom needed to use antibiotics in their feed or water. They likely have only used penicillin or oxytetracycline products to treat the occasional sick animal for foot rot, pink eye, or respiratory problems at weaning. It is important to not only seek to develop a VCPR relationship, but to be willing to consider various ways to achieve this, which may include a remote relationship that depends on communicating with pictures by phone.

Focus on the health of your animals.

While every cattle producer should have a VCPR so that antimicrobials will be an available tool, every cattle producer needs to work on better prevention of cattle health problems. Work to understand the conditions and factors that enable disease to take hold. Remember to ask “why?” (ie. why did this animal get sick and not his herdmates?) until you arrive at actions you can take to reduce the risk of animals getting sick. Ask what you can do to reduce stress on your animals; ask how you can reduce pathogen load and transmission; ask how you can increase the immune response of your animals? Prevention is the most important thing you can do for the health of your animals. Antimicrobials are a fallback when prevention has failed.

Some livestock producers, both large and small have complained about the inconvenience of getting prescriptions for antimicrobials. Producers are asked to understand that microbial drug resistance is real and a critically important challenge facing the medical community. Antibiotic use in the livestock industry may have contributed to microbial resistance problems. Much of the blame of microbial resistance, whether justly or unjustly, has been placed on the livestock industry. Producers accepting these challenges and inconveniences to abide by the rules set forward should help both from image standpoint and in the fight to minimize microbial antibiotic resistance.

“So Dad, would you call the vet about that calf and see if she will prescribe something? Then we need to get to work on preventing the next calf from getting sick.”

Cereal Rye varieties grown in Michigan show substantial differences in growth habit, yield and quality for distilled spirits

By: Brook Wilke, Dean Baas, James DeDecker, Joshua Dykstra, Ryan Hamilton, Christian Kapp, Nicole Shriner

A team of scientists at MSU has been evaluating over 20 cereal rye varieties at three different locations since the fall of 2019 to determine what varieties are best suited for end use in distilled spirits. A [report](#) is now available summarizing two years of trials, including data collected on in-field characteristics such as heading date, lodging, height, and biomass yield, as well as grain yield and quality metrics important to the distilling industry. These quality parameters included test weight, percent protein, spirit yield and flavor markers in the raw grain (ferulic acid) and distilled spirit (4-vinyl guaiacol (4-VG)). Two videos were produced during the project period to highlight this research, and both are available for viewing on the internet ([UPREC Video](#), [KBS Video](#)).

In all years and locations, there was at least a three-fold difference in grain yield between the highest and lowest yielding varieties. Hybrid rye varieties produced and marketed by KWS typically produced the highest yields while open pollinated varieties typically marketed for cover crop purposes (e.g. Wheeler) produced the lowest yields. Other open pollinated varieties such as AC Hazlet and ND Dylan marketed for dual purpose produced yields that were close to the average of all varieties. A couple of varieties (FL 401 and Merced) sourced from southern locations did not survive winters in the Upper Peninsula and exhibited different growth characteristics that resulted in earlier spring emergence and heading dates, but typically low yields compared to most other varieties.

In distilled spirits, rye grain quality is crucial for spirit yield and flavor. Spirit yield from individual variety/locations ranged from 327 to 387 LAA/tonne, with higher yielding varieties tending to also have higher spirit yield during distillation. Spirit yield was negatively correlated with grain protein content, which resulted in a wide range across varieties within locations (e.g. 8.2% to 15.1% protein in 2021 at the UP site). Flavor compounds such as 4-VG varied across varieties, locations, and years, which lends evidence to the terroir hypothesis that varieties, locations and weather all play a role in grain/spirit flavor. A positive correlation between ferulic acid and 4-VG was also observed in the 2021 dataset ($r^2=0.67$). Wheeler was consistently at or near the top of the variety list for 4-VG concentration at all locations in both years, indicating that Wheeler may be a good choice for spirit producers looking for a variety that produces a spicy character in the finished product.

Avoiding mycotoxins resulting from *Fusarium spp.* (vomitoxin) or *Claviceps purpurea* (ergot alkaloid) infection is also a priority for rye grain production. We did not observe substantial contamination from mycotoxins at any of trial locations, and thus were not able to determine if some varieties exhibit more resistance than others.

Heading date and total plant biomass are important traits when considering planting these varieties as cover crops or for forage harvest. Aroostook is a variety that is commonly marketed as early to head, and thus able to be terminated using mowing or roller crimping earlier than other varieties. Our trials confirmed this trait for Aroostook, but also observed similar early heading dates for FL 401, Merced, ND Gardner, Maton, Elbon, and Wrens Abruzzi. Aroostook was also near the top in total biomass production, but ND Gardner was the top biomass producer in both the Upper and Lower Peninsula in the 2021 trials.

The next steps in this project are to produce a subset of these rye varieties in larger quantities at multiple locations to facilitate higher volume spirit production. That will allow professionally trained tasting panels to evaluate specific flavor profiles of unique varieties grown in different locations. The research team is excited to share those findings once available and encourages interested stakeholders to reach out with any questions about the project.

Fall Classic Cattle Sale

Held by
Bay de Noc Beef Producers

October 8th, 2022 Live Auction 1:00 Col. Bill Sheridan

U.P. State Fairgrounds Beef Barn

Animals available to view at 11:00

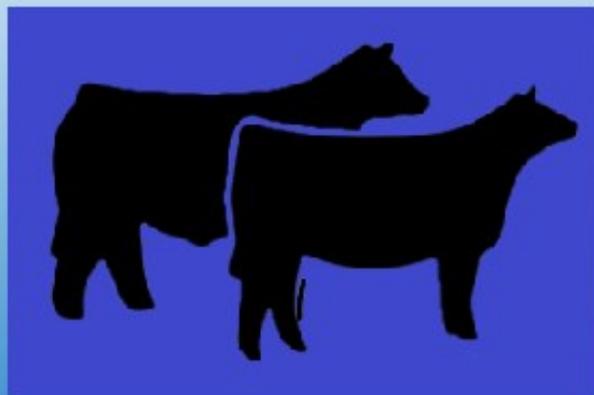
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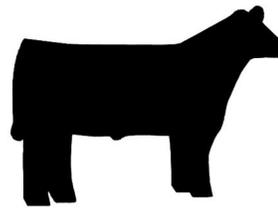
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FOR SALE: Mixed Hay round bales, 700#. Call Alan or Karen
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FOR SALE: Black Wagyu Bulls, forage fed. For more
information contact Paul Naasz, MSU UPREC, Chatham
(906)439-5114 Ext. 2.

FOR SALE: Hay, 5x6 round bales legume grass hay, stored
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NORTHERN MICHIGAN LIVESTOCK

Gaylord, MI - 1-76 (exit 282), 2 miles West on M-32 to
N. Town line Road: Go 2 miles north to sale yard

2022 FALL FEEDER CATTLE SALES

Note: All Sales on Friday at 12:00

October 14

October 28

November 11

December 9

Pre-conditioned Cattle will be sold first—proof required

- PRECONDITIONING PROGRAM STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
- ALL FEEDERS MUST MEET PROPER TB & ID REQUIREMENTS
- REQUEST CATTLE BE BROUGHT IN THE DAY BEFORE THE SALE
- BRED CATTLE & BREEDING BULLS MAY BE SOLD AT SALES
- STEERS IN QUESTION WILL BE SOLD AS BULLS

Sale Barn TELEPHONE# 989-732-5732

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Market Report

Choice Steers	\$120-\$143 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$110-\$137 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$57-\$71 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$100-\$145 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$70-\$82 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$100-\$125 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$200-\$300 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows top \$1500/head

Grade Holstein bred heifers top \$1250/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$17.93	\$358.65	\$265-560
Soymeal	\$29.74	\$594.75	\$525-690
Oats	\$17.70	\$354.00	\$320-416
Barley	\$13.40	\$268.00	\$200-382
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			