



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

January 2024

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 28 Issue 1

In this issue:

Welcome Rene Sanderson as the New UPREC Secretary

By James DeDecker, MSU UPREC Director



- Page 2
 - MCIA Spring Barley Variety Trial results
- Page 3
 - Earn \$200 sampling your soil
 - Farm Policy and Risk Management Series
 - Farm Bill sessions webinar
 - MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation
- Page 4
 - Byelich Family Farm Winter Pasture Walk
 - Women's Snowshoe Hike Series
- Page 5
 - Pruning workshop
 - Foundations of Gardening webinar
- Page 6
 - Advertisers
- Page 7
 - Advertisers
 - Classifieds
 - Market Report
 - MSUE Job Posting
- Page 8
 - Field Crops Webinar

Back in October 2023, we announced the retirement of UPREC Secretary Michelle Coleman after 25 years of service to the State Farm. Since that time, we have completed a rigorous search process to identify Michelle's successor. This process involved in-depth vetting of an exceptionally strong candidate pool through two rounds of interviews, skills assessment and reference checks. I am very excited to share that this process was ultimately successful, and we look forward to having the new UPREC Secretary, Rene Sanderson, join us later this month!

Rene will be joining the MSU-UPREC team following seven years as a Loan Processor at Peoples State Bank in Munising. She grew-up in Alger County, attended Superior Central High School and participated in 4-H. Rene currently lives in Rumely, MI with her husband, two children and two dogs. The family has kept cattle and horses in the past, and now custom grazes cattle for a neighbor in the summer. Rene enjoys camping with her family and attending snowmobile races. Her excitement about the new position and passion for community service are evident. "I look forward to being (even) more involved in my community through this new job opportunity." Rene noted.

Rene stood out among the crowd due to her skills as an administrative professional, long-standing connections to the community, experience in agriculture, and her kind, helpful demeanor. Her first day at UPREC will be January 16th. Michelle Coleman will be on-hand to train Rene until at least April, and we are planning a retirement celebration for Michelle later this spring. We are confident that Rene will be ready to serve the diverse needs of our staff and clientele after this onboarding period. Please consider joining us to congratulate Michelle and welcome Rene by posting a note to our [Facebook page](#) (MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center), sending a card to PO Box 168, Chatham, MI 49816, or stopping by the office.

Agriculture for Tomorrow

Conference

Tue, Feb 20, 2024
Bay College in Escanaba, MI

UP-focused talks:

- Livestock
- Field Crops
- Specialty Crops
- Homesteading
- ❖ Keynote speaker
- ❖ Vendor booths
- ❖ Local food lunch
- ❖ Fellowship & Fun

Registration opening soon at:
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/2024Ag4Tomorrow/>

MCIA SPRING BARLEY VARIETY TRIAL – 2023 RESULTS

James DeDecker, Brook Wilke, Richard Horsley, Christian Kapp, Joe Charlebois, Andy Bahrman, Alina Goulding, Vance Gawel, Larry Judge, Jeff Malkiewicz and Kevin Slagh



Michigan State University conducted spring barley variety trials in 2023 with support from the Michigan Crop Improvement Association (MCIA). Locations included Chatham, MI at the MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center (UPREC) and two commercial farms, Sklarczyk Seed Farm in Johannesburg, MI and the Judge Dairy Farm in Shepherd, MI. Our project was a three-location barley strip trial designed to compare leading genetics for Michigan from field to glass at pilot scale. This research represents an expanded effort to understand barley adaptability and performance in Michigan for both traditional markets and emerging opportunities in craft malting, milling, and distilling.

Temperature was near normal from planting through harvest at all locations. However, precipitation was below normal at Shepherd and Johannesburg until late in the season, when nearly 20 inches of rain fell at Shepherd breaking long-term precipitation records for Isabella County. Wildfire smoke blanketed Michigan for much of the growing season, reducing light intensity. Lodging was observed in barley at Shepherd. Data were analyzed using ANOVA (alpha = 0.05) and Tukey’s HSD test in the Agricolae package for R. Statistical analysis was not completed for malt quality data due to removal of the Shepherd location from malting and the resulting small sample size (n=2).

Barley performance was highly variable across locations. Drought in May-June followed by excessive precipitation in July-Aug significantly reduced grain yield and quality at Shepherd. Barley yields were above average at Chatham and Johannesburg, despite early season drought conditions. 2ND32529 headed 2-5 days before the other varieties and was severely affected by pre-harvest sprout at all locations. KWS Fantex also succumbed to pre-harvest sprout at the Johannesburg location, but likely due harvest of the trial being delayed until after commercial barley harvest. LCS Genie and Odyssey demonstrated relative dormancy, which protected them from PHS, but also resulted in low germination energy and high Beta-glucan in the malt shortly after harvest. Malt extract was near 82% across all varieties and locations. Malt from 2ND32529 produced hazy wort. Craft maltsters at Great Lakes Malting Company, Mitten State Malt and Emergent Malt will be malting small batches of all four barley varieties from the Chatham and Johannesburg locations to share their observations with the project team and funders.

Table 3: Barley Yield and Grain Quality Across Locations (*indicates varieties similar to the BEST)

Location	Variety	Yield (bu/ac)	Heading Date	Height (in)	Protein (%)	Plump (%)	Thin (%)	Germ Energy 4ml (%)	Germ Capacity (%)	RVU	DON (ppm)
Chatham	2ND32529	109.3	7-Jul	31.0	11.3	99.5	0.1	88	98	10	0.3
Chatham	KWS Fantex	124.2	12-Jul	22.0	11.5	98.6	0.3	81	95	136	0.4
Chatham	LCS Genie	118.4	12-Jul	26.0	11.2	98.7	0.1	54	91	152	0.3
Chatham	LCS Odyssey	119.5	12-Jul	27.0	11.0	99.1	0.1	46	90	144	0.2
Chatham	Average	117.9	10-Jul	26.5	11.3	99.0	0.2	67.3	93.5	111	0.3
Johannesburg	2ND32529	110.3	5-Jul	23.7	10.5	95.7	0.7	55	55	7	0.4
Johannesburg	KWS Fantex	107.3	7-Jul	16.2	10.1	96.1	0.4	86	91	71	0.5
Johannesburg	LCS Genie	100.6	7-Jul	17.8	10.1	97.0	0.3	35	91	111	0.3
Johannesburg	LCS Odyssey	113.0	7-Jul	19.3	9.8	95.9	0.6	53	95	113	0.4
Johannesburg	Average	107.8	6-Jul	19.3	10.1	96.2	0.5	57.3	83.0	76	0.4
Shepherd	2ND32529	41.3	2-Jul	NA	11.9	95.5	0.4	74	90	4	0.6
Shepherd	KWS Fantex	20.0	30-Jun	NA	13.6	95.7	0.4	91	95	23	0.3
Shepherd	LCS Genie	32.3	25-Jun	NA	13.0	93.5	0.6	93	95	53	0.3
Shepherd	LCS Odyssey	27.0	25-Jun	NA	12.8	96.4	0.4	91	92	21	0.3
Shepherd	Average	30.2	28-Jun	NA	12.8	95.3	0.5	87.3	93.0	25	0.4
Average	2ND32529	87.0	4-Jul	25.9	11.2*	96.9*	0.4*	72.3*	81.0*	7	0.5*
Average	KWS Fantex	83.8*	6-Jul*	18.3	11.7*	96.8*	0.4*	86.0	93.7	77*	0.4*
Average	LCS Genie	83.8*	4-Jul*	20.4	11.4*	96.4*	0.3	60.7*	92.3*	105	0.3*
Average	LCS Odyssey	86.5*	4-Jul*	21.2	11.2	97.1	0.4*	63.3*	92.3*	93*	0.3
Average	Average	85.3	5-Jul	22.9	11.4	96.8	0.4	70.6	89.8	70	0.3



MSU Plant and Soil Science research project looking for farmers to partner with

Earn \$200 for participating!

Who we are: Dr. Sasha Kravchenko and Dr. Manni Singh from Michigan State University have collaborated with the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research to examine soil carbon in different farming practices. More information at [Soil Health - Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research \(foundationfar.org\)](http://foundationfar.org)

What we are looking for: We need to sample 3 fields that are managed as:

- A conventional managed field – conventionally tilled, no manure, no cover crops
- A conservational managed field – preferred no till, cover crops, manure, extended rotation.
- A natural area – either a woodland area (a wide tree line separating two fields will do or an “old field” or grassland)

We will also need to collect the field management history for the last 5 years and general history prior to that.

Sampling details:

Sampling is a one-time event; farmers with fields that match the criteria will be paid for access.

In each field, we will take soil samples 0-15cm and 15-40cm depth at 10 locations. We will test soil organic carbon, carbon mineralization, aggregate stability and other soil characteristics (available P and K, pH, and CEC). You will have access to all data we generate from your fields.

If interested, please contact Liz Dotzlaf Email: DotzlafL@msu.edu

The Farm Policy and Risk Management Series will cover field crops on Tuesday, January 16th at 6:30pm. The promotional article for this webinar is now live: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/farm-policy-and-risk-management-series-field-crops-session>.

Farm Bill sessions will begin on January 11th, January 23rd, and February 13th. You can find the whole webinar series schedule here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/msu-launches-the-farm-policy-and-risk-management-series>.

MCA-MSU BULL EVALUATION

9441 50th Avenue Remus, MI
Sale March 16, 2024



WE DO MORE, SO YOU KNOW MORE.

FEED MAY ACCOUNT FOR UP TO 70% OF BEEF PRODUCTION COSTS. THE MCA-MSU BULL EVALUATION IS ONE OF THREE BULL TESTS EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER WITH THE CAPABILITY TO MEASURE FEED INTAKE.

Scan here or visit Mbulls.com for more info.





Byelich Family Farm Winter Pasture Walk January 18, 2024

The Byelich Family Farm

George Byelich started in Alcona County as the MSU Extension County Agent in 1975, and a few months later he and Louella purchased what we know now as Byelich Family Farm. George was privy to all the new ag practices and research being promoted by MSU and used some of that to get started with rotational grazing our beef cattle in the early 1980's. Louella's family has a legacy in raising cattle in northern Michigan since the late 1800's, so the family farm benefits from that cow savvy that she brings. With this foundation, we have continued to intensify the grazing and optimize beef production. The farm is now being operated in this manner by three generations of the family.

Discussion Points

This event is for graziers that want to learn more about winter feeding using bale grazing, and bale unrolling. Attendees will learn how the Byelich family combines winter feeding, grazing, and nutrient distribution at the same time.

Registration and Location

- Help us plan by Pre-Registering, contact Brittany at the Gladwin MSU Extension Office (989)426-7741, or email her at: msue.gladwin@msu.edu
- The Byelich Family Farm is located at: 255 N. Poor Farm Road Harrisville, MI 48740.
- Date: January 18th, 2024
- Time: 11:00am-2:00pm EST

Contact Us:

Kable Thurlow
Office: (989)-426-7741
or thurlowk@msu.edu

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension 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. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact, Brittany two weeks prior to the start of the event (January 4th, 2024) at (989) 426-7741 or msue.gladwin@msu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible



MI Ag Ideas to Grow With

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension will hold the 2024 MI Ag Ideas to Grow With conference virtually on in February 19 - March 1, 2024.

This unique event, created in 2021, provides an opportunity for education encompassing the wide variety of aspects of the agricultural industry and offering a full array of educational sessions for farmers, homeowners, and others interested in food and animal production and those considering agricultural endeavors.

This two-week educational experience featured a variety of tracks focused on livestock production, vegetable production, crop production, beginner farmers, irrigation and drainage, community food systems, and food preservation.

There is no cost to register, but pre-registration is required.

Attendees are able to attend as many sessions as they would like and have multiple different topics to choose from. RUP and CCA credits will be offered for several of the sessions, pending approval from MDARD.

[Register Now](#)

Join the Marquette County Conservation District and Michigan State University Extension for their 2024 Women in the Woods snowshoe series! Be a part of a community of women who appreciate and care for the forests around them, while getting fresh air and exercise to fight off cabin fever. Kids are welcome. These free events will be beginner-friendly, guided hikes full of casual conversation. Reach out to Sara Kelso at sara.kelso@macd.org or (906) 251-3071 to register, for more details about the event, or if you need to borrow snowshoes! Snowshoes are available to rent at Valley Spur, please reach out beforehand if you'd like to rent a pair so we can cover the cost for you!

FEBRUARY 2024

WOMEN'S SNOWSHOE HIKE SERIES

Fall in love with Michigan's forests!

02/01 VALLEY SPUR CROSS COUNTRY TRAIL
MUNISING
4:30-6:00 PM

02/08 BLUEBERRY RIDGE PATHWAY
MARQUETTE
4:30-6:00 PM

02/15 AL QUAAL RECREATION AREA
ISHPEMING
4:30-6:00 PM





Pruning Workshop, January 31, 2024 or February 21, 2024, 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. EST, Online via Zoom

Register at:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/2024PruningWorkshop/>

Pruning is an important cultural practice used to maintain health, safety, vigor and appearance of woody plants. It involves both art and science – art, in shaping plants in harmony with their growth habit to enhance the landscape, and science, in knowing how, when, where and why to prune for maximum benefit.

MSU Extension Senior Horticulture Educator, Rebecca Finneran will lead the interactive online Zoom workshops that are designed to help participants learn best practices for pruning and the proper equipment it takes for each job. You will be able to ask questions and interact with the instructor. And, prior to the workshop you have been selected, you will have the option to submit photos for discussion and analysis, as time allows.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension 

 **Foundations of GARDENING**

Ten-week online certificate course features weekly webinars with MSU Extension horticulture experts.

Topics include
Plant Science, Soils,
Plant Propagation,
Entomology, Diagnostics,
Lawn care, Flowers,
Trees and Shrubs,
Fruits and Vegetables,
and more!

Course cost: \$350
Partial scholarships available

If you are interested in becoming an MSU Extension Master Gardener, this is the class for you!



Want to learn more?
canr.msu.edu/courses/foundations-of-gardening 

MSU Extension 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.

MAC-LUCE SCHOOLCRAFT FARM BUREAU®

President: Scott Nance

Secretary: Terrie Slack

906-430-5035

S&R
Angus



Weston, WI

(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.



GreenStone
FARM CREDIT SERVICES

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

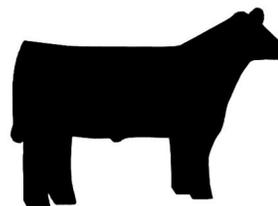
LISA CELL 989-578-0328

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



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

MSU Extension Job Posting:

**Community Nutrition Instructor,
Dickinson/Iron Counties**

Visit <http://careers.msu.edu>

Posting #904965

Marlette Livestock Auction

Monthly Dairy & Feeder Cattle Auctions

Sale Date January 13, 2024

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

Wanted: Pasture for 25-35 cow calf pairs for the summer of 2024
in the Eastern UP. Will consider a custom grazing arrangement as
well. Call Ben (989) 370-3570.

Straw for Sale: Small squares or 4x5 Large round bales.
906-439-5114 Ext. 2

FOR SALE: Inline Bale Wrapper, 2015 Anderson NWX-660. Honda
gas engine, self propelled, remote control. Stored inside last 2
years. \$24,000. Also, 1000 gallon **pull behind Sprayer** with 60 ft
boom. \$1,000. Both in Hancock. Call Nate (906)370-1876.

FOR SALE: Hay, mixed round bales, 700# stored inside. Also small
square bales of straw. Call Jim Myers (906)399-1649 or (906) 466-
2672.

FOR SALE: small square bales of straw and small squares of first
crop hay. Call Marenger's Farm (906)384-6587.

FOR SALE: Mixed Hay round bales, 700#, \$20. Call Alan or Karen
Raynard @ (906) 647-6697, Pickford.

Market Report

Choice Steers	\$150-\$174 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$115-\$155 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$24-\$36 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$180-\$220 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$80-\$95 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$150-\$290 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$150-\$350 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows top \$2700/head

Grade Holstein bred heifers top \$2900/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$16.36	\$327.15	\$240-543
Soymeal	\$29.08	\$581.50	\$520-655
Oats	\$18.44	\$368.75	\$319-416
Barley	\$13.81	\$276.25	\$200-386
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

MSU Extension Field Crops Webinar Series begins February 2024

Field crop producers, consultants and agribusiness professionals are invited to participate in the [2024 Field Crops Webinar Series](#), a series of eight online programs addressing field crop production and pest management offered by [Michigan State University Extension](#). Participants will be able to access the expertise of agriculture specialists and educators from the comfort of their home or office.

The theme for this year's series is **Two for the Price of One: Conversations in Row Crop Agriculture**. Each session will feature two speakers giving short presentations and discussing different aspects of the topic in an informal talk-show/podcast format with plenty of opportunity for interaction with the audience. Participants will hear how to enhance their row crop production systems in the coming season and have an opportunity to ask questions of agricultural experts.

The live webinars will run on Monday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. beginning Feb. 5 and ending March 25, 2024. Topics include the following:

Integrated Wildlife Damage in Michigan Field Crops: Repellant and Palatability Trial Results; Corn Fertility and Management Considerations for 2024 Production; Linking Drainage, Soil Health, Cover Crops and Water Quality; What Can Beneficial Nematodes Tell Us About Soil Health; Turning Weather-related Challenges to Agronomic Management Opportunities; Dry Bean Production Agronomics and Market Considerations; Opportunities and Challenges of Disease Management: White Mold in Soybeans and Tar Spot in Corn; Weed Control Challenges and Management in Field Crops and Forages.

Cost of registration is \$20 per person for the entire series. Those attending the live webinars will be eligible to earn one Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development pesticide recertification credit per session for application to one of the following categories: Private Core, Commercial Core or Field Crops. One continuing education unit for certified crop advisers will also be available for each session.

Webinars will be recorded and archived, and participants may choose to view the recordings at a later date. Credits are available only for participants in the live sessions.

[Register for the 2024 Field Crops Webinar Series](#)

Prior to each webinar, registrants will receive an email containing a link to connect to the webinar. The webinars may be accessed on a mobile device or a computer with a stable internet connection—no other equipment is necessary. Archived recordings from previous seasons are accessible for free from the [MSU Extension Field Crops webpage](#).