



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

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Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

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It is not too late to plant cover crops

The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting cooler so many people feel that it is too late to plant cover crop. While it is true that it is too late to plant the majority of cover crops, it is not too late to plant cereal rye, triticale or winter wheat. Cereal rye is one of the best cover crop choices that we have in Michigan. It can be put in many different crop rotations and has proven to be an excellent cover crop.

Cereal rye, also called winter rye, is a cold hearty cover. It can germinate in temperatures as low as 34 degrees F in the fall and in the spring it will start to grow at 38 degrees F. Cereal rye can be established in a variety of soil types as well as quality. It can grow in rich organic soils as well as poor sandier soils. The preferred pH range is between 5.0-7.0. It is important to make sure that rye is planted at the correct depth. Drilling depth should be between ¾ to 1 ½ inches at a rate of 55-175 pounds per acre. The rate for broadcast is 60-185 pounds per acre and for aerial application it is 65-205 pounds per acre.

Cereal rye has many outstanding qualities that are looked at when considering cover crops. It is an excellent nitrogen scavenger. It will seek out nitrogen in the soil and will hold it for the next crop. It also frees up potassium that is deeper in the soil profile so it can be later used by crops. Rye also can be used as a weed suppressor. Rye can be easily established and if the population is dense enough it will outcompete weeds. Some of the weeds that it will suppress are redroot pigweed, velvetleaf, chickweed, lambsquarter, and foxtail. Rye also has an allelopathic effect on some weeds including dandelions and Canada thistle. Rye can also be used as a feed source for livestock. Rye is also excellent at helping build soil organic matter.



The biggest challenge for using rye as a cover crop is terminating the plant in the spring. As rye grows it will pull nitrogen from the soil and hold it in its stem. Unfortunately the release of the nitrogen from the plant as it decomposes is slow and not quickly available. Rye will also utilize any moisture in the soil, so if it is a dry spring a late killing of the rye could have negative effects on the following crop. To maximize the benefits of the rye terminate the crop before it matures. Termination method can be either mechanical or chemical. It needs to be done when the rye is between 8 and 12 inches. Rye can also be green chopped as forage when it is in the boot stage.

This would also be a good time to think about where you can fit in cover crops in your 2018 cropping system. The Midwest cover crop selector tool (www.mccc.msu.edu/covercroptool) is an online resource that can help you select cover crops based on county weather data, rotation, seeding date, attributes of the cover crop and drainage type. For more information on cover crops visit the Michigan State University Cover Crops web page <http://www.covercrops.msu.edu> or the Midwest Cover Crop Council website at <http://www.mccc.msu.edu>.

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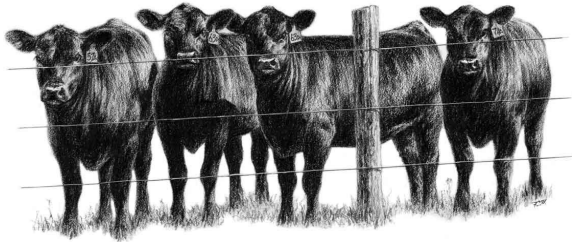
Monica Jean, MSUE Field Crop Educator

Fecal Egg Count to Determine Treatment

Frank Wardynski

For two years now, I have been encouraging producers to send in manure samples to determine egg counts. The findings have been encouraging from the standpoint that many mature cowherds have not required treatment. Producers utilizing the results have saved money by not treating cows that were clean. Conversely, a larger percentage of younger animals has shown elevated egg counts and have benefited from cost effective treatment.

If you have not taken advantage of the free testing and wish to do so before winter, contact me at 906-884-4386 or wardynsk@anr.msu.edu. Most of the resistance problems we have seen has come from routine treating of animals regardless of their egg count status.



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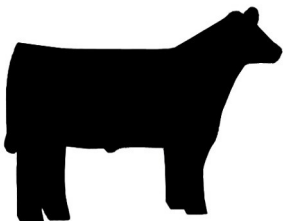
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Market Report

Choice Steers	\$100—\$112 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$70—\$83 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$57—\$65 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$100—\$130 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$40—\$54 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$100—\$125 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$150—\$225 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows \$1300—\$1800/head

Grade Holstein bred heifers \$1500—\$2200/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$10.04	\$200.75	\$160-244
Soymeal	\$21.51	\$430.25	\$375-536
Oats	\$10.15	\$203.05	\$190-230
Barley	\$10.15	\$203.00	\$140-262
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			



Coffee Talk

Connect • Share • Learn

Topic: Weather variability and soil resilience

Come enjoy a coffee and discuss local issues
with other farmers and MSU Extension staff.

November 6 9:00 am

Big Boy 607 E Lake Shore Dr, Manistique

November 7 7:00 am CT

Farm House W107 South Dr, Stephenson

November 7 9:00 am CT

Redwood Junction Restaurant US-2, Powers

November 8 9:00 am

Jack's 7897 S Main St, Rapid River

November 9 9:00 am

B's Country Café & Catering 629 S Stephenson Ave,
Iron Mountain

November 10 9:00 am

Snack Bar N5484 Eben Trenary Rd, Chatham



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Novice Farm Finance Management Webinar

Frank Wardynski

Earlier this year I started working with some farmers to assist them in organizing their financial records and developing beginning year balance sheets. The process has been useful for those farming operations and the results impactful. I am offering a one-hour webinar to cover those topics on December 13, from 8:00-9:00 pm EST. The cost to attend the webinar from the comfort of your own home is \$5. Farmers interested can register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/NoviceFarmFinanceManagementWebinar/>

The program will target farmers that are novice in their finance management, accounting practices and ability to analyze farm profitability. If you struggle in these areas, signup and tune in for a session on covering the basics of farm record keeping.

Classifieds

REGISTERED BLACK ANGUS BULL. 1 ½ years old. Very gentle. Been to the UP State Fair. (906)644-2107

FARM FOR SALE by owner. Located in the beautiful Upper Peninsula of Michigan. 278A / 200 tillable, 160A adjacent to farm buildings, some woods for harvest/hunting. Includes 96' barn, 6 buildings, 2 wells. All structures have metal roofing. Same family for 85 years, has organic possibilities. Farm is tidy, well maintained & comes complete w/a 30' windmill. \$382,000. Amish friends, help build a budding community-public transport goes by farm daily. [Visit FB Link](#) - Brimley Sales for pics/details. Contact Melvin Schwiderson @ (906) 248-6633 or northwind906@icloud.com

SHEEP HERD DISPERSAL SALE Call or text (906) 280-3269 or call (906) 238-4468; 28 Suffolk/Polypae ewes; 8 young stock lambs; 2, 4-year old Suffolk rams.

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Winter feeding hay in the field

By Frank Wardynski

Michigan beef cattle producers have traditionally grazed cows through the summer months and then fed hay rations in confinement settings through the non-grazing days. It is a logical system that usually allows farmers to deal with the snow of the UP, allows access to barn shelter, automatic waterers, and can be relatively time efficient. Another concept of feeding cows through the winter is to feed out in either hay or pasture fields. This concept is not necessarily new but is gaining popularity.

This summer, Michigan State University Extension educators conducted pasture walks on three farms demonstrating varying methods of this feeding strategy. Three general methods seem to be the most popular: Utilizing bale feeders, Rolling out the hay, and bale grazing. Each method carries its own advantages and disadvantages regarding wasted hay, impact on standing forage, mineral nutrients added to soils, soil health implications, and labor requirements.

Placing hay into feeders has been shown to minimize feed waste and feeder design can have a significant impact to the degree of that loss. Rolling bales out on the ground allows fertilizing nutrients to be more evenly distributed and can offer greater improvement of yields as opposed to other feeding methods. Also, feed wastage can be minimized with bale unrollers that place feed in narrower, higher mounds. Bale grazing is a method in which bales are spaced across a feeding area in advance to winter-feeding. Usually bales are offered a small number at any given time with electric fencing. Bale feeders are usually not used in this method. This feeding method can offer reduced machinery and labor during the feeding period. All of the feeding methods offer advantages of minimizing the need to haul manure and soil health benefits.

Feeding hay on fields during the winter months has many advantages that more farmers are taking advantage. Each farmer can weigh the benefits and drawbacks from feeding methods and manage accordingly.



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Calendar of Events

Eating Through the Eastern U.P. Series

On Saturdays from 10 am - 12
Seasonal topic and food at each location
November 18-Brimley

Ag for Tomorrow Conference

March 13 – Bay College, Escanaba

MSUE U.P. Crop Research Updates

Dec 11, 1:30 – 3pm – Chatham
Dec 13, 1:30 – 3pm ET – Mass City
Dec 13, 6:30 – 8pm CT – Felch Twp Hall
Jan 4, 1:30-3pm – Escanaba
Jan 11, 1:30 – 3 CT – Stephenson
Jan 17, 2 – 3:30pm – Rudyard
Jan 17, 6:30 – 8pm – Engadine

Pesticide applicator core manual training

9 am – 1 pm followed by state exams
Dec 1 – Chatham (UPREC)
Jan 10 – Negaunee (Marquette MSUE office)
Feb 6 – Escanaba (State Office Building)

Pork team meeting

Dec 18, 6 – 9pm – Escanaba
Dec 19, 12 – 3pm – St. Ignace

Monica's Coffee Talks

Nov 6 – 9 am, Big Boy Manistique
Nov 7 – 7 am, CT Farmhouse Stephenson
Nov 7 – 9 am, CT Redwood Junction Restaurant Powers
Nov 8 – 9 am, Jack's Rapid River
Nov 9 – 9 am, Iron Mountain
Nov 10 – 9am, Snack Bar

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