

MSU Agriculture Innovation Day: **Focus on Forages and the Future**



August 24, 2017

Lake City Research Center, Lake City, Michigan

www.msue.msu.edu/msuaginnovationday

MSU Agriculture Innovation Day is an annual event that focuses in-depth education on a single topic. In 2016, more than 400 farmers, agribusiness professionals and their supporters participated in the inaugural event at the Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center in Frankenmuth, Michigan. There, in an event titled "Focus on Soil," they learned about soil health topics ranging from nutrient management and soil quality to compaction and tile technology. Science-based shared the results of various techniques on both crop growth and soil quality, as well as soil testing and plant diagnostics resources.

In 2017, dairy and beef producers will join us at the Lake City Research Center in Lake City, Michigan, where experts from throughout the country will give a cutting-edge, in-depth look at forages and the future to help dairy and beef producers meet growing environmental, production and sustainability demands.

The free event, which runs from 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., comprises nine field-based sessions focused on specific issues. Dinner, featuring guest speaker MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon, will be served at 4:30 p.m.



Featured Sessions:

Making the Most of Reduced-lignin Alfalfa in Your Operation. Learn about the latest in reduced-lignin alfalfa genetics and results from a multiyear MSU study. Explore the differences in yield, quality and harvest timing, and what fits best for your operation and forage quality needs.

Precision is the Division in Silage. Hear from Brian Luck, University of Wisconsin Extension specialist in biosystems engineering, as he shares the latest on a mobile app designed to help producers and custom harvesters view images of processed kernels, particle size and kernel distribution. He will explain how combining this with moisture and starch value data allows producers to use the right equipment adjustments to make the best silage possible.

Expand Your Land Use with Double-cropping. Extending your crop rotation to include cover crops can increase feed harvested per acre and extend the land base for manure application. Learn how double-cropping can provide an extra forage crop for heifers, open windows of opportunity for manure application, trap manure nutrients and remove more phosphorus from the system to virtually expand your land base.

Precision Dairy Cattle Monitoring. Do you have a Fitbit fitness tracker? Do your cows? Come learn how researchers and producers are using wearable technologies similar to Fitbit to monitor behavior, health and reproduction for each cow in their herd 24/7. Experts will discuss each technology and how or if it fits with various management styles, and when or if it makes economic sense.

Finding the Right Mix for Soil Health. Healthy soils are an essential for food and feed production. What we grow can improve our soils and ultimately our bottom line. Experts will look at how forage crop selection, crop rotations, cover crops and manure can affect the productivity of the soil and improve soil health.

Baleage Made Tight, Made Right. Take a look underneath the plastic wrap and see what is happening to the forage from a feed analysis and fermentation perspective. Explore proper moisture ranges, wrapping methods and techniques for



ensuring a quality product so producers can improve their dairy and beef production.

Creating Profitable Beef Operations by Managing Land, Livestock and People. Burke Teichert, past manager of the Deseret Land and Cattle Company, a current beef ranch consultant and featured columnist for Beef Today magazine, will speak on the critical factors of blending land, cattle and people to be successful in today's beef farming environment.

Grass-fed Beef – Research and Experience. The MSU Lake City Research Center has conducted leading research on grass-fed beef production. See the results from the five-year grass-fed beef study completed at Lake City and hear from John Nelson of Midland about his experiences in switching from cash crop to grass-fed beef and how this research has helped his bottom line and increased markets for his products.

Is Your Land Regenerating? The Land-to-Market Program Provides the Answer. The Savory Institute's Land-to-Market program, with partners such as Michigan State University, is working to provide beef, sheep and dairy producers a process to verify that the land they are raising their livestock on is improving in well-defined quality indicators. This regeneration effort creates an opportunity for certified farms to reach new consumers who are concerned about how their food is produced. Learn the basics of the program, timelines for implementation and opportunities for participation.