



UP Ag Connections

725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953

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NEWS & VIEWS

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Oh my! Back in December I was hoping by the time January came around we would all be talking about how bad December was. Now at the end of February I'm wondering how much longer this severe winter weather can last. It's official, I've declared this the worst winter in the 20 years I've lived here. The driveway tunnel is over six feet at the highest point and if the wind blows, it doesn't even need to snow for it to be closed in again by morning. If you haven't figured it out, I'm tired of winter.

I grew up in Illinois. My family thought I was crazy moving to the U.P. They frequently tease me on Facebook about the snow. But this year is different. They have had more snow than in the last 25 years and their temperatures have been colder than ours. And trust me, they don't know how to deal with that much snow. Then it warmed up, and in one week the drainage ditches were filled and the rivers flooded. I was watching the weather channel and saw a report on the flooding in my home town. Then the temperatures dropped to frigid again and froze the flood.

The jet stream has dropped south of the U.P. resulting in these incredibly cold temperatures for such long periods. Unfortunately for the southeast portion of the country they also are experiencing temperatures much colder than normal. Drivers were stranded in their vehicles on the highway overnight. Farther north in the most heavily populated region of the country they continue to receive snow storm after snow storm. I complain about running out of room to push snow. They don't have any place to push snow. California is experiencing a historic drought. This is their rainy season and they haven't had rain. The mountains are practically devoid of snow this year. After three years of below normal rainfall and starting the year with depleted water reservoirs, irrigation of crops has ceased. California is the largest agriculture producing state in the nation accounting for over 10% of the country's cash receipts. California agriculture is dependent on irrigation.

I sometimes think that we in agriculture are a bit of alarmists and have a tendency to cry wolf. I remember hearing time and again about the devastation that would occur if the farm bill wasn't signed by January 1. I kept asking where this was coming from. It was all over national media. The media isn't smart enough to fabricate this story. I'm not often correct but I was here. The farm bill wasn't signed yet the impact was fairly small. I tell that story to address the California situation. Knowing their dependence on irrigation, this could be huge. Ten percent of our nations ag receipts could turn into one. And if that happens, food prices are going to move. Feel bad for the California farmer, but this could have significant impact on prices received for Michigan commodities. If it happens it won't be good for the American consumer, but this could mean the rest of the American farmers will receive significantly higher prices. This is going to be worth watching.

I can be a real whiner when I just look at my immediate situation. I'm tired of the cold and the snow and I'm worried about how long and horrible the mud season might be. But when I look around, as usual there are others that have it so much worse than I do. So I going to try and be thankful its not worse and be optimistic about the future.

~Frank

Table of Contents

2...

3...

4...

5...

6...

7...Sponsors

8...Calendar

MARKET REPORT (2/20/14)

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Market Ready Prices

Choice Steers	\$120-\$150	per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$110-\$130	per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$72-\$78	per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$140-\$165	per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$65-\$95	per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$125-\$200	per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$90-\$125	per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1800 - 2500	per head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1400 - 2000	per head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$13.90	\$278.00	\$240-316
Soymeal	\$30.01	\$600.20	\$525-675
Oats	\$15.85	\$317.00	\$260-374
Barley	\$14.28	\$285.50	\$215-356

Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots

Wanted & For Sale Listings

Personal ads will be removed monthly. We reserve the right to edit your ad. Free ads must be no more than 110 spaces. Please respect the space requirements. You can always purchase an ad if more space is required. Please call or email your ad no later than the 15th of each month. Call the Ontonagon County MSU Extension office at 906-884-4386 or email msue66@msu.edu.

Hay for Sale – Pure Alfalfa & Alfalfa Mix 1st 2nd and 3rd cuttings No Rain and stored inside. Small squares – Round Bales – Wrapped Bales Call 906-238-4482 or 906-630-1617



Michigan Cattlemen's Association

MCA/MSU BULL SALE:

March 15, 12:30 (EST)

Open House at Station: March 1st

325 Mount Hope Rd, Crystal, MI

(Angus, Charolais, Hereford, Red Angus, Simmental)

Brian Plank: (989) 506-2061

MI Cattlemen's Association:

(517) 347-8117

www.micattlemen.org

REMINDER – Don't forget to register for the March 11 Agriculture for Tomorrow conference at Bay College, Escanaba!! Mail your paper registration and check, or register and pay on-line at <http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=2014AgforTomorrow>

GUPAA Annual Meeting

The Growing UP Ag Association (GUPAA) will be conducting their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 1st, Room 952A, Heirman University Center at Bay College in Escanaba with registration beginning at 10:30 am ET. GUPAA will begin their annual business meeting at 11:00 am and discuss previous activities and future agricultural concerns relating to the UP. Michelle Walk, MSU Extension, will deliver a presentation at approximately 1:30 pm. providing information regarding the UP Food Exchange and Regional Food Hubs. For more information and to RSVP, please call 906-439-5114, ext. 1.

REMINDER!

Plan now for the FFA Alumni Consignment auction!

Get that equipment out from behind the barn now

Ad registration deadline is April 11, 2014

Plenty of time to do a little fix-up/tune-up!

AUCTION: Sunday, May 4th starting at NOON

Havelka's Construction

On Hwy 41

Just south of Wallace, MI.

For more information call:

906-753-4192

BUY OR SELL!

REMINDER MSU Extension Field Crops Webinars

MSU Extension is offering a series of free, on-line programs for people interested in field crop and forage production. This series is an effort to include farmers state-wide in high-quality extension programming that would otherwise be unavailable due to the costs of presenter travel. Each webinar has been approved for 1 recertification credit for state-certified pesticide applicators. High-speed internet connection is needed to receive the programs and registration is required at <http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=fieldcropswebinars2014>

Each one-hour webinar begins at 7:00 pm ET:

March 3, 2014

Corn Stover for Feed and Fuel - Dennis Pennington

March 10, 2014

Corn and Soybean Fungicides: To Spray or Not To Spray - Dr. Marty Chilvers

March 17, 2014

Managing Rootworms on the Fringe: Determining If You Have Bt Resistant Rootworms on Your Farm - Dr. Chris DiFonzo

March 24, 2014

Herbicide Site of Action: What's Next in Weed Control on the Farm? - Dr. Christy Sprague

March 31, 2014

Alternative Forages and Cover Crops - Dr. Kim Cassida

Recordings of the programs will be available on-line. Contact Jim Isleib, MSU Extension educator at 906-387-2530 or isleibj@anr.msu.edu with any questions.

MSU Extension Upper Peninsula Dry Bean Meeting

All current dry bean producers and anyone interested in learning about dry bean production is invited to attend this free meeting.

Friday, March 7, 1 – 4 p.m. ET, Fairbanks Township Hall, 11th Road, Garden, MI (about 2.5 miles south of Fayette State Park entrance)

This meeting will consist of presentations including connection by speaker phone and recordings from recent dry bean production meetings in lower Michigan. MSU Extension educator Jim Isleib will be on-site to facilitate discussion by speaker phone with presenters and to operate the projected slide presentations.

Tentative agenda:

- Dry bean insect ID and management, including Western Bean Cutworm, leafhoppers, aphids – Fred Springborn, MSUE Educator (live, by speaker phone)
 - Dry bean disease ID and management, including white mold, bacterial blight – Dr. Marty Chilvers, MSU Dept. of Plant, Soil and Microbial Science (recorded presentation)
 - Invasive and herbicide resistant weed ID and management – Dr. Christie Sprague, MSU Dept. of Plant, Soil and Microbial Science (either live by speaker phone, or recorded presentation)
 - Dry bean market update – Fred Springborn (by speaker phone) or Larry Sprague, Kelly Bean, Breckenridge, MI (by speaker phone)
- Michigan Bean Commission update – Greg Varner and/or Joe Cramer (by speaker phone)
- 2 MDARD pesticide applicator recertification credits have been approved for this meeting. To register, please contact Jim Isleib at 906-387-2530 (office), 906-250-9609 (mobile) or isleibj@anr.msu.edu.

On-line programs for beginning farmers

The MSU Extension 2014 Beginning Farmer Webinar Series is underway. Six webinars were held in January and February, and several more programs are scheduled. Others will be added throughout the year. Separate registration and \$10 fee is required for each program. High speed internet is required. You can test out your system to see if it will work by visiting: https://connect.msu.edu/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

March 3, 2014

Getting started with CSA, presenter Beth Clawson
<http://events.anr.msu.edu/csawebinar/>

March 12, 2014

Getting started with Organic field crops, presenter Dan Rossman
<http://events.anr.msu.edu/beginorganiccrops/>

March 19, 2014

Getting started with Expanded vegetable Production, presenter Hal Hudson

March 24, 2014

Getting started Basic Business Records, presenter Frank Gublo

April 2, 2014

Getting started with Hoophouses, presenter Adam Montri and Rowan Bunce (farmer)
<http://events.anr.msu.edu/GSWhoophouse2014/>

October 22, 2014

Getting started with Plasticulture in vegetable production, presenter Ron Goldy

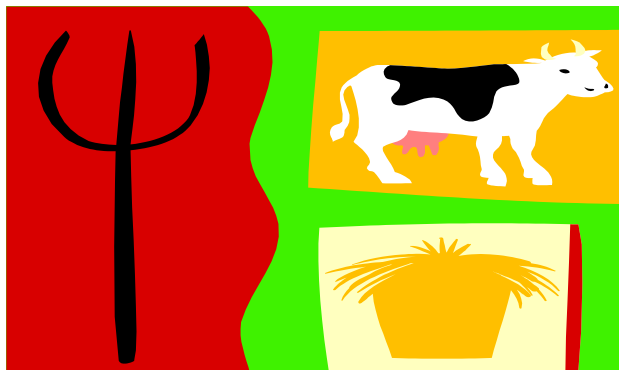
Dates to be determined

Getting started with Grass Based dairy, presenter Frank Wardynski.

Getting started with Beef cow calf production, presenter Frank Wardynski

For those programs without a registration URL listed, check for details under 'Search all events' at <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/>

Contact Jim Isleib, MSU Extension Educator at 906-387-2530 or isleibj@anr.msu.edu with any questions.



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Looking for a past edition of the newsletter?
Check out www.maes.msu.edu/upes

2013 Michigan Forage Variety Test Report available now

Dr. Kim Cassida and research technicians Joe Paling and Christian Kapp have released the new report on forage variety performance. The full report is available on-line at Michigan State University Forage Information Service website: <http://fis.msue.msu.edu/>

The report contains background information on most available forage types, including seeding rates and site/use suitability of tested forages in Michigan. The varieties tested are those entered by commercial seed companies. Yield information on alfalfa, clovers and grasses, alfalfa fall dormancy and disease resistance is included. Multiple-year data is included where available. Results from Chatham, East Lansing, Lake City and other locations are included. The following tables are samples from the report:

Planting specifications and site/use suitability of tested forage species in Michigan.

	Seeding rate (lb/acre) †	Seeds/lb (approx.)	Ease of establishment	Stand life (yr)	Acid	Wet	Drought	Cold	Heat	Pasture	Hay
Alfalfa	12-16	199,000	easy	3-7	P††	P	E	E	E	VG	E
Red Clover	8-12	252,000	easy	2-3	G	F	G	VG	F	F	G
Brome, meadow	15-20	93,000	fair	5+	G	P	G	E	G	G	G
Brome, smooth	12-15	136,000	slow	5+	G	P	E	E	G	F	G
Fescue, meadow	15-20	230,000	easy	3-5	G	VG	E	G	G	E	E
Fescue, tall	10-15	230,000	easy	5+	G	VG	VG	G	G	E	E
Festulolium	25-35	230,000	easy	3	F-G	G	*	*	*	E	G
KY bluegrass	5-15	2,200,000	easy	5+	G	G	P	E	P	E	P
Orchardgrass	10-15	653,000	easy	4-5	G	F	G	G	G	F	E
Reed canarygrass	6-8	534,000	slow	5+	G	E	VG	VG	G	G	G
Ryegrass, annual/Italian	20-30	227,000	easy	1-2	F	G	P	F	P	E	F
Ryegrass, perennial	20-30	230,000	easy	3-4	F	G	P	F	P	E	P
Timothy	6-12	1,234,000	easy	5+	G	F	P	E	P	P	E

†Use lower end of range for drilling and higher end for broadcasting. Reduce rates proportionately when planting in mixtures.
††Suitability Rating: P = poor, F = fair, G = good, VG = very good, E = excellent, * = variety-dependent.

If you are considering seeding any new hay or pasture fields, this report will provide you with a lot to think about. It also contains a listing of all companies providing the seed tested with phone numbers and email addresses.

If you prefer to receive a written copy of the report, please contact Jim Isleib, MSU Extension Educator, at 906-387-2530 or isleibj@anr.msu.edu.

Table 7. Long-term yield averages (dry matter tons/acre) from MSU Alfalfa Variety Trials seeded in Chatham, Michigan in 2008 and 2009, and first-year yields of varieties seeded in 2012.

Variety	Marketer	3-year average		1-yr total	(Number) †
		2008	2009	2012	% Vernal ††
----- dry matter tons/acre -----					
4A421	Mycogen Seeds	-	3.10	-	(1)107
6417	NEXGROW	3.73	-	-	(1)107
6431	NEXGROW	3.64	-	-	(1)104
Ameristand 403T Plus	America's Alfalfa	-	3.07	-	(1)106
Ameristand 407TQ	America's Alfalfa	3.45	2.96	-	(2)100
DKA 33-16	Monsanto	3.70	-	-	(1)106
DKA 43-13	Monsanto	-	3.23	-	(1)111
Evergreen 3	NEXGROW	3.23	-	-	(1) 92
ForageGold	Renk Seed	-	-	3.25	-
Mariner IV	Allied Seed	-	-	3.06	-
Pioneer 53H92	Pioneer Hi-breds Int'l	-	2.88	-	(1) 99
Pioneer 54Q32	Pioneer Hi-breds Int'l	-	3.28	-	(1)113
Pioneer 55V12	Pioneer Hi-breds Int'l	-	3.25	3.40	(1)112
Pioneer 55V48	Pioneer Hi-breds Int'l	3.42	2.96	-	(2)100
Pioneer 55V50	Pioneer Hi-breds Int'l	-	-	3.73	-
SolarGold	Renk Seed	-	-	3.39	-
Velocity	Nutech Seed	3.55	3.05	-	(2)103
Vernal	Public	3.50	2.90	3.09	(2)100
WL343HQ	W-L Research	3.55	-	-	(1)101
DK140	check	3.40	3.01	-	(2)100
5312	check	-	3.27	-	(1)113
Mean		3.52	3.08	3.32	104

† Number of completed 3-year trials
†† Average % Vernal

Table 21. 2013 yields (DM tons/acre) of the MSU Perennial Grass Variety Trial seeded in East Lansing, Michigan, in May 2011.

	2012 Total	2013					2-yr total	
		Plant Maturity†	Cut 1 5/31	Cut 2 6/28	Cut 3 8/14	Cut 4 10/1		Total
Orchardgrass								
Persist	4.38*	7.8	1.61	0.76	0.67	0.63	3.67*	8.05*
Potomac‡	3.74	8.0	1.52	0.85	0.65	0.56	3.57*	7.31
ISG OG53	3.67	7.0	1.47	0.83	0.71	0.50	3.51*	7.18
ISG OG52	3.71	8.3	1.36	0.80	0.72	0.52	3.39*	7.10
Intensiv	3.61	5.8	1.40	0.85	0.69	0.46	3.39*	7.00
Average	3.82	7.4	1.47	0.82	0.69	0.53	3.51	7.33
LSD 0.05	0.45	1.4	0.22	0.08	0.12	0.10	0.35	0.64
CV %	7.6	12.0	9.8	7.2	11.7	11.2	6.5	5.7
Perennial Ryegrass								
Kentaur	3.00*	3.3	0.72	0.70	0.65	0.22	2.28*	5.28*
Remington	3.06*	2.8	0.70	0.72	0.57	0.22	2.20*	5.26*
Mathilde	2.60	3.3	0.66	0.52	0.55	0.22	1.96*	4.56
Linn‡	2.70	9.8	1.03	0.27	0.48	0.17	1.95	4.65
Fennema	2.51	3.5	0.59	0.42	0.49	0.18	1.67	4.18
Average	2.77	4.5	0.74	0.52	0.55	0.20	2.01	4.78
LSD 0.05	0.28	0.9	0.15	0.07	0.19	0.05	0.32	0.46
CV %	6.7	13.2	13.8	8.5	23.0	13.3	10.2	6.3
Tall Fescue								
Kentucky 31(E)-‡	4.61	8.5	1.73	0.81	1.02	0.77	4.33	8.94
Select	4.32	8.8	1.91	0.72	0.88	0.59	4.09	8.41
Hymark	4.01	8.5	1.77	0.69	0.86	0.78	4.10	8.11
STF 43	3.64	7.3	1.59	0.81	0.85	0.69	3.93	7.57
Mean	4.15	8.3	1.75	0.76	0.90	0.71	4.11	8.26
LSD 0.05	1.08ns	0.5	0.15	0.09	0.20	0.14	0.43ns	1.49ns
CV %	16.3	4.0	5.5	7.0	13.9	12.6	6.5	11.3

*Not statistically different from the greatest numerical value in the column for that species.
† Maturity visual ratings from 1 to 10 prior to first cutting. 10 = 100% of plot headed, 1 = 100% of plot still vegetative
‡ Check variety

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Additional security is required for poured-cement open-bunker silos, renewable biomass facilities, cold storage facilities, hay barns and for all loans exceeding \$50,000. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- ◆ Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- ◆ Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- ◆ Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas, dry beans and dry peas
- ◆ Hay
- ◆ Renewable biomass
- ◆ Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities
- ◆ Honey

GREAT INTEREST RATES: Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Remember: these loans are now available for Hay/Forage Storage as well as traditional grain storage!

February Interest Rates:

- 2.375 percent for 7 years with a loan of \$100,000 or less
- 3.000 percent for 10 years with a loan of \$100,000 - \$250,000
- 3.125 percent for 12 years with a loan of \$250,000 - \$500,000

Contact your local FSA county office for February's interest rates.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED—continued

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more. The AFIDA reports must be filed with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

For more information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs, contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA web site at <http://www.usda.gov>.

FARMING OPERATION CHANGES

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchase property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to do so can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time in the spring.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.



On-farm trial in Republic identifies better yielding potato varieties under 'naturally grown' practices

This Upper Peninsula farmer used an NCR SARE Farmer Rancher Grant to compare potato varieties in a replicated trial

Jim Isleib, MSU Extension Educator

Potatoes are an important Upper Peninsula crop. The great majority of acreage is raised by growers with long experience, using the most modern technologies and inputs. A large percent of U.P. acreage is grown for seed, and most of the rest for table stock. Most of the crop is trucked out of the U.P. In addition to these growers, there are a number of smaller producers growing potatoes strictly for local markets. Many of these growers produce less well-known varieties. Their local customers often desire production methods using more organic or 'natural' techniques.

Mike Wixtrom wanted to find out which potato varieties would be best for his new farm in Republic, Michigan. This Marquette County farmer ramped up his 'naturally grown' potato production to 9 acres this year. Mike is farming on land once owned by his grandfather, who operated a dairy and potato farm. The land changed hands for several years since that time, and fields have been sadly run down by grazing and hay harvest without adequate inputs and rotations. Mike was able to buy back a part of the farm, including the house and buildings, a few years ago. He has settled on potatoes as a crop with good market potential. Mike hopes to gain organic certification in the future. For now, he is using organic techniques and selling his farm products as 'naturally grown'.

With assistance from the NCR SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program and Michigan State University Extension educator, Jim Isleib, Mike tested 9 potato varieties in 2013. The test consisted of a set of plots, one row by 40', replicated 4 times. Cultural practices in the plots were identical to the rest of Mike's fields. Currently without a source of livestock manure, Mike uses purchased organic fertilizers and crop rotation to provide plant nutrients. No irrigation is available yet.

A field day was held on August 17 to give the public an opportunity to visit the farm and see the SARE-funded variety trial. The plots were harvested on October 9, graded and weighed on November 7. Resulting plot weights are converted to hundred weights (CWT) per acre in the table below:

Variety	Grades A+B+C (CWT/acre) *	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Pick outs
King Harry	79.50	71.6	6.63	1.27	0.18
Elba	57.34	44.29	10.17	2.91	0.18
German Butterball	52.27	8.55	18.42	25.32	0.37
Adirondack Blue	44.20	18.69	19.03	6.54	0.46
Purple Sun	44.01	34.12	8.44	1.45	0.00
Desiree	40.29	18.24	15.34	6.72	0.46
Reba	39.20	24.14	11.53	3.54	0.54
Canela Russet	33.31	8.53	16.06	8.71	1.45
Green Mountain	33.04	9.26	13.89	9.89	1.00

*LSD = 13.1 (P=0.05)

Statistically, there were real differences among the varieties. When grades A, B and C were combined (column 2 in the table above), the coefficient of variation was 19.09% and least significant difference was 13.1. King Harry, Elba and German Butterball were the best performing varieties in the trial.

Keep in mind that this trial is only an indicator for one year, and one location. The results are most meaningful on the Wixtrom farm, since they reflect those specific growing conditions. However, for farms with similar conditions, the comparisons are of interest. The low yields are a result of low soil fertility. However, Mike works hard to develop good-paying, local markets for his potatoes and receives excellent prices, both retail and wholesale. This project is a good example of the value of on-farm crop trials to help producers identify best management practices for their own, specific farming conditions.

A more detailed report will be available on the NCR Sare website when all reports are submitted. For more information on the NCR SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program, visit [the NCR SARE \(North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education\) website](http://www.ncrsare.org). Farmer Rancher Grant Program proposals are due in mid-November for projects to be done the following year.

The 99th annual Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, hosted by MSU and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Gardeners, farmers, foresters and families interested in animals, plants, land and water are invited to Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Week, Feb. 28-March 8. The annual event, formerly known as Farmers' Week, is hosted by the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural

Resources, MSU Extension and MSU AgBioResearch. This year's events include educational programs on topics ranging from conservation stewardship to beekeeping. ANR Week is also the setting for several annual meetings and conferences for many Michigan organizations.

For a complete list of programs, conferences and educational opportunities, visit www.anrweek.canr.msu.edu, or contact

2014 Annual Tree and Plan Sale

Gogebic County Conservation District
Contact 906-663-4512
Order deadline April 11, 2014
Tree pickup May 2 and May 3 in Bessemer, MI

Houghton Keweenaw County Conservation
Contact 906-483-0214
Tree Pickup May 3, 2014

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* Sept-April: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

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*****If you do not wish to receive this publication, please contact the Ontonagon County MSUE office at 906-884-4386.**

Meetings & Events Calendar

February 28 – Mar 9 – 2014 ANR Week program, MSU (<http://anrweek.canr.msu.edu/>) including:

March 5 Growing Michigan Agricultural Conference

March 6 Forage Technology Conference

March 3 7:00 pm ET - Getting started with a community supported agriculture (CSA) farm - webinar

March 3 7:00 pm ET - Corn Stove as Feed and Fuel MSUE Field Crop Webinar

March 7 1:00 pm ET—U.P. Dry Bean Production Meeting, Fairbanks Twp. Hall, Fayette, MI

March 10 7:00 pm ET -MSUE Field Crop Webinar Corn and Soybean Fungicides.

March 11 9:15 am ET -Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference, Bay College, Escanaba

March 12 7:00 pm ET - Getting started with organic field crops – webinar

March 15 Beginning Bee Keeper Workshop call 906-884-4386 for more information

March 15 MCA/MSU Bull Sale, Crystal, MI. Contact Brian Plank (989) 506-2061.

March 17 7:00 pm ET -MSUE Field Crop Webinar Managing Rootworm on the Fringe

March 19 7:00 pm ET- Getting started with expanding vegetable production – webinar

March 20 1:00 pm ET - Clare County Livestock Auction, LLC

March 24 7:00 pm ET- MSUE Field Crop Webinar Herbicide resistance management

March 24 7:00 pm ET - Getting started with basic farm business records – webinar

March 29 Advanced Bee Keeping Workshop call 906-884-4386 for more Information

April 1 10:30 am ET GUPAA Annual Meeting at Bay College, Escanaba, MI

April 2 7:00 pm ET, Getting started with Hoophouses - webinar

April 11 Deadline to order Trees/Shrubs from Gogebic County Conservation District call 906-663-4512 or www.gogebiccountymi.gov/soil1/html

April 21-25 Breeding Soundness Exam for Bulls

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