



Updates from the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center

January/February 2015

Volume 2 Issue 1

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www.facebook.com/MSU.UPREC

Coordinator Comments

A new year is upon us and with that comes great opportunity for agriculture in the Upper Peninsula! Over the month of December, Jim Isleib, Christian Kapp, and I have held 5 meetings throughout the U.P. to discuss the results of the variety trials that were managed by the Center this past growing season. We've had some excellent conversation at each meeting with very engaged crowds. I appreciate everyone who has made it out to a meeting thus far.

If you haven't been able to attend yet, I strongly encourage you to consider participating in one of the three scheduled in January: on the 6th we'll be in Engadine at the Garfield Township Hall, the 7th we'll be at the Delta County Extension Office in Escanaba, and on the 28th we'll be in Dafter at the Bruce Township Hall. All of these meetings will be held from 7—8:30 pm. If you plan to attend—we appreciate you contacting me to RSVP at ashleymc@msu.edu or 906-439-5176. Hope to see you in January!

Happy New Year,

Ashley McFarland

906-439-5176

ashleymc@anr.msu.edu



Have you heard? UPREC has expanded it's Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) portfolio. Not only did the main farm site re-verify in cropping systems, but we made some on-farm improvements to verify in farmstead and livestock systems as well! The North Farm also verified in farmstead and cropping systems!

2014 Freshpack Potato Variety Trial

VanDamme Farms, Delta County, MI

Harvest 7-Oct-14 129 Days
DD, Base 40⁵ 2682

LINE	CWT/A		PERCENT OF TOTAL ¹					TUBER QUALITY ²					TOTAL		VINE VIGOR ³	VINE MATURITY ⁴	COMMENTS	
	US#1	TOTAL	US#1	Bs	As	OV	PO	SP.GR	HH	VD	IBS	BC	CUT	VIGOR				
Reba	637	660	96	4	47	49	0	1.080	0	0	0	0	10	4.0	3.5			
MSS176-1	573	629	91	2	69	22	7	1.077	0	0	0	0	10	4.5	4.5			
Red Norland	515	547	94	3	87	7	3	1.073	0	0	0	0	10	4.5	3.0			
W9133-1Rus	497	596	84	2	40	44	14	1.100	0	0	0	0	10	4.5	3.5			
MSS206-2	491	502	98	1	45	53	1	1.100	0	0	0	0	10	4.0	4.5			
AF4320-7Rus	465	531	88	2	43	45	10	1.085	0	0	0	0	10	4.0	3.5			
ATX91137-1Rus	452	516	88	7	47	41	5	1.077	0	0	0	0	10	3.0	4.0			
Silverton Russet	447	568	79	8	39	40	13	1.085	0	0	0	0	10	4.5	3.5			
MSQ131-A	433	440	99	0	38	61	1	1.078	0	0	0	0	10	4.5	4.0			
MSS576-5SPL	432	488	88	6	66	22	6	1.076	0	0	0	0	10	4.5	3.5			
Russet Norkotah LT	427	464	92	5	49	43	3	1.075	0	0	0	0	10	3.0	3.0	gc in pickouts		
W6703-1Y (Oneida Gold)	422	442	96	1	90	6	3	1.080	0	0	0	0	10	4.0	3.0			
A03921-2Rus	409	497	82	12	50	32	6	1.078	0	0	0	0	10	3.0	5.0			
A06021-1rus	407	489	83	8	61	22	9	1.073	0	0	0	0	10	3.0	5.0			
MSM288-2Y	396	417	95	5	81	14	0	1.076	0	0	0	0	10	3.5	3.5			
W8152-1Rus	337	405	83	14	63	20	3	1.082	0	0	0	0	10	4.5	3.5			
W9433-1Rus	316	339	93	4	37	56	3	1.082	0	0	0	0	10	4.0	4.5			
AF4124-7Rus	311	436	71	12	37	34	17	1.085	0	0	0	0	10	4.5	4.5			
MSQ086-3	299	315	95	5	77	18	0	1.076	0	0	0	0	10	2.5	4.0			
CO05228-4R	283	331	86	9	82	4	5	1.085	0	0	0	0	10	2.5	3.5			
AF3362-1Rus	228	274	83	3	41	42	14	1.076	1	0	0	0	10	3.5	3.0			
Russet Norkotah	178	264	68	21	56	12	11	1.075	0	0	0	0	10	3.5	3.0	gc in pickouts		
MEAN	407	461																

tr = trace, sl = slight, N/A = not applicable
 SED = stem end defect, gc = growth crack

¹SIZE
 Bs: < 1 7/8" or <4oz.
 As: 1 7/8" - 3.25" or 4-10oz.
 OV: > 3.25" or >10oz.
 PO: Pickouts

²TUBER QUALITY (number of tubers per total cut)
 HH: Hollow Heart
 VD: Vascular Discoloration
 IBS: Internal Brown Spot
 BC: Brown Center

³VINE VIGOR RATING
 Date Taken: 10-Jul-14
 Ratings: 1 - 5
 1: Slow Emergence
 5: Early Emergence (vigorous vine, some flowering)

⁴VINE MATURITY RATING
 Date Taken: 27-Aug-14
 Ratings: 1 - 5
 1: Early (vines completely dead)
 5: Late (vigorous vine, some flowering)

Planted: 31-May-14
 Vines Killed: 15-Sep-14
 Days from Planting to Vine Kill: 107
 Seed Spacing: 12"
 No Fumigation

⁵MAWN STATION: Escanaba Planting to Vine Kill

The North Farm

www.msunorthfarm.org



Find us on Facebook to receive updates from the North Farm –
www.facebook.com/northfarmatuprec

Now Hiring!

The UPREC North Farm Assistant Manager, under direct supervision of the Farm Incubator Manager, will be responsible for day-to-day maintenance and upkeep of farm facilities, vegetable production and harvest.

General Responsibilities:

- Assist with diversified year round vegetable production, harvest and storage at a MSU Research Center
- Assist with applied research opportunities related to season extension, including variety trials to determine appropriate crops for region
- Assist with sampling and record-keeping related to research
- Assist with infrastructure development including passive solar greenhouse and heated greenhouse
- Assist with farm facility development and maintenance, including fence building, small construction tasks, etc.

Minimum Requirements:

- Currently working towards a degree, or have acquired a B.S. or B.A. in related field
- Strong work ethic
- Farming and farm management experience
- Cold climate sustainable vegetable production,

including organic farming experience

- Experience using various farm equipment
- Season extension experience with high tunnels
- Strong research skills, including an understanding of the scientific method
- Experience in record keeping and strong attention to detail
- Strong organizational skills
- Passion for sustainable agriculture
- Ability to lift 50 lbs. and work in all weather conditions

Desired Qualifications

- Self-starter
- Prior experience with vegetable crops
- Knowledge and experience related to cold storage
- Experience working in extreme northern climates

Compensation:

The Incubator Farm Manager assistant position will be a temporary, hourly position, beginning on March 1, 2014 (flexibility on start date), not to exceed nine months. Beginning pay rate is \$11/hour and on-site housing is provided. Please provide a resume, three references, and a cover letter explaining how your education, skills and experience make you a strong candidate for this position. Applications must be submitted to Ashley McFarland via e-mail (ashleymc@anr.msu.edu) by Friday, January 16, 2015.



We bid a fond farewell to two valuable members of our North Farm team as they pursue new opportunities.

Brendan and Liesel - your impact on the Farm will forever be felt, best of luck in your new adventures!

Apprentice Farmer Program

Applications are still being accepted for the Apprentice Farmer Program—a farm incubator program that aims to serve as the launching point for individuals interested in starting their own farming enterprise. This two-year, residential program provides farming entrepreneurs with the necessary tools and assistance needed to ensure a solid start to their farming career.

Applicants are accepted on a rolling basis, but applications are requested by February 1st.

For additional details and the application, visit the North Farm website at:

www.msunorthfarm.org

International Year of Soils—2015

USDA Joins Global Partners to Kick Off International Year of Soils in 2015

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 2014 – Today, USDA joins nations from across the globe to kick off the International Year of Soils, an effort to highlight the importance of soil in everyday life. Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie will address members of the 68th United Nations General Assembly, which designated 2015 for the yearlong celebration.

"We are excited to be working with the United Nations to help raise awareness and promote the importance of conservation of our soil resources," Bonnie said. "USDA is embracing this unique opportunity to tell the world about the importance of soil conservation and how we've worked with private landowners since 1935 to protect and improve this priceless natural resource."

UN's Food and Agriculture Organization spearheaded the global International Year of Soils campaign within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership. The year of awareness aims to increase understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem func-

tions. Soils play a crucial role in food security, hunger eradication, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Bonnie is one of several leaders who will address the assembly today, on World Soil Day, about the importance of soil. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – America's agency for soil conservation, classification and studies – plans to make the year a memorable one.

NRCS works hand-in-hand with producers through technical and financial assistance programs and services to help ensure their success. The agency was born amid the Dust Bowl era of the 1930s, the nation's largest environmental disaster caused by over cultivation, drought and record-breaking temperatures.

"NRCS conservationists work with America's farmers and ranchers to take care of the soil, ensuring agricultural operations are sustainable for many years to come," NRCS Chief Jason Weller said.

For more information on International Year of Soils, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/.

If you would like to learn more about soil and how to conserve it in your farming operation, be sure to attend the U.P. Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference held at Bay College in Escanaba on Tuesday, March 10th! There will be numerous sessions on soil health and soil conservation practices. Additional details found in this newsletter.

MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center

Main office located at E3774 University Drive, Chatham, MI 49816 – just off Highway 94 south of Chatham

North Farm located on the Rock River Road north of Chatham since 1899, Farm Incubator est. 2014

906-439-5114 – <http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc>