



U.P. Ag Connections

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NEWS & VIEWS

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Last month, I wrote about the limited agriculture infrastructure we have here in the U.P. There was much interest in this topic based on the phone calls and emails I received. Many of the comments addressed need and that we need to find ways to get inputs in and outputs out, in a less expensive manner. I discussed in the previous newsletter that I had had a conversation with a member of the Ontonagon County Planning Commission and the thought that infrastructure development should be strategic. So I thought it would be fun to continue the discussion.

First I ask myself; if I were the Grand Poobah of Project: U.P. Ag Infrastructure Development, how would I build it? How would I decide what we need and what pieces should be built better? How would I coordinate efforts to identify and describe the current resources and what needs to be developed? How would I weigh and coordinate the needs of commodity agriculture vs a direct to consumer marketing system. Would I focus on efforts to direct marketing towards local consumers or export towards potentially higher priced markets?

I'm a huge believer in the free enterprise system. When it is economically profitable to build a piece of the infrastructure, it will be built. Of course I realize there are grants and governmental programs that can be obtained to assist in these areas. Grants usually only assist as part of the whole scheme but need to be used effectively as we move forward.

Back to being Grand Poobah I would start by expanding the brain trust by developing a committee of diverse personalities, agricultural experiences and backgrounds. I would assign them two jobs. The first job would be to identify the resources already in place while developing a WOTS profile (Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats and Strengths). Next I would ask them to imagine what ag in the UP could look like in 20 years.

I picture a diverse production, both plants and animals with big and small operations. Soil nutrient levels will be optimized and in moderate levels. Drainage and sub-irrigation systems will make both our suitable sandy and clay soils highly productive. Livestock operations will graze marginal lands while other operations will be intensive and highly efficient. Hoop houses will be considered nearly obsolete, as other technologies allow for year-round production of fruits and vegetables. We will feed a U.P. population that has doubled while still exporting food to other areas of the country and the world. The possibilities could be as endless as our consumers demand for our product.

Developing the infrastructure of agriculture in the U.P. will be a long and continuous process. This development will at times be slow and inefficient. If we are to reach our full potential, the development will need to be strategic and futuristic. The strategies are going to be designed by our many agricultural organizations and by many groups and commissions that are not agriculture related or focused. If agriculture is going to grow to its potential in the U.P., now is the time that leaders need to focus coordinated efforts in doing so.

~Frank

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MCA/MSU BULL SALE:
March 16, 12:30 (EST)
Open House at Station: March 2nd
 325 Mount Hope Rd, Crystal, MI
 70 Bulls for Sale (Angus, Hereford, ChiAngus, Red Angus, Simmental, Charolais)
 Brian Plank: (989) 506-2061
 MI Cattlemen's Association:
 (517) 347-8117
www.micattlemen.org

Market Report (as of 2/26/13)

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Market Ready Prices

Choice Steers	\$110-\$125	per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$95-\$116	per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$55-\$63	per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$100-\$120	per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$70-\$86	per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$90-\$115	per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$90-\$170	per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein Cows	\$1,700-\$2,000
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1,400-\$1,600

Feed Prices across the U.P. (as of 2/23/13)

	<u>Avg. \$/cwt</u>	<u>Avg. \$/ton</u>	<u>Price Range</u>
Corn	\$18.90	\$378.00	\$320-\$436
Soymeal	\$31.79	\$635.80	\$499-\$772
Oats	\$16.08	\$321.50	\$265-\$378
Barley	\$15.80	\$316.00	\$260-\$372

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.

For Sale: Oliver 1655 Tractor w/heated cab. Diesel, wide front, 18 Speed Trans. Excellent condition.
L'Anse Contact: 319-984-9126

For Sale: Oats
L'Anse Contact: 319-984-9126

For Sale: Dairy Nubian goats
Covington Contact: 906-355-2310

Wanted: Boer meat goats
Covington Contact: 906-355-2310

For Sale: 2 year old, Registered Angus Bull \$1,800
Contact: 906-827-3390

For Sale: Round bales, mostly grass, average weight 1,200# per bale \$80 per bale
Trenary Contact: 906-446-3398

For Sale: : Four female Boer Goats, two are four years old, two are one and one half years old. Also available , five year old female pygmy/fainting goat mix. All UTD on vaccines.
Escanaba, MI. Contact: 906-553-5319.

Purity Foods of Hudson, MI seeks good U.P. crop producers to grow spelt grain on contract

Purity Foods of Hudson, Michigan is interested in talking with experienced U.P. crop producers about the opportunity to grow spelt grain on contract. Don Stinchcomb, president of Purity Foods, will have an exhibit at the Agriculture for Tomorrow conference at Bay College on March 5. Don is interested in contracting with U.P. farmers to grow up to a total of 300 of spelt grain. Spelt is an ancient crop similar to wheat. It is spring-seeded, and its performance in the U.P. is likely to be similar to spring wheat. The contract price is not set, but is likely to be around 13 cents per lb. Seed and trucking are at the expense of Purity Foods.

If you are interested, plan to attend the Agriculture for Tomorrow conference and visit with Don Stinchcomb. You may also contact Don at Purity Foods, 1-800-997-7358 extension 204 or don@purityfoods.com.

Breeding Soundness Exams for Bulls

Producers will again be able to have their bulls fertility tested at various locations across the Upper Peninsula in 2012. During the dates of April 22-26, Dr. Dan Grooms, Large Animal clinic with Michigan State University will be conducting breeding soundness exams and will be assisted by Dr. Renee Koyer with the Thompson Vet Clinic in Manistique.

Any producer that has turned out an infertile bull knows the financial ramifications. High percentage of cows not pregnant next fall means high cull rate and replacement cost. Especially with our current situation of historically high cost of production and rising replacement cost, the cost of fertility testing is inexpensive.

To schedule testing your bulls at one of the sites, contact Frank Wardynski in the Michigan State University Extension office in Ontonagon County at 906-884-4386.

Super Duper Yooper Pig Sale April 20, 2013

Johnson Brothers
Sale Barn
3740 18th Road
Escanaba, Michigan

Barn opens at Noon
Sale starts at
2 p.m. (EST)



Escanaba, MI
*Offering 50+ elite
late January and early February
barrows and gilts.*

For more information call:
Todd Boicken - 815-592-9291 or
Frank Wardynski - 906-281-0918

Check Us Out On Facebook!
Super Duper Yooper Pig Sale

2013 FEEDER CATTLE SALES CLARE COUNTY LIVESTOCK AUCTION, LLC Clare, MI

DAVID CLARK OWNER/AUCTIONEER

Phone #810-441-6191

SALE BARN #989-386-9256

ALL CATTLE WEIGHED AT TIME OF SALE

Accepting cattle on Wednesday,
ALL DAY

COLORED & HOLSTEIN,
STEERS, HEIFERS & CALVES
(Some Pre-Conditioned)
(Information available at time of sale.)

THURSDAYS at 1:00 p.m.:
March 21st,
April 18th, and May 9th

&
EVERY MONDAY at 3:00 PM

Go to: www.davidclarkauction.com
For market information.

Equine Business Online Short Courses offered to Equine Professionals by Land Grant Universities

Contact: Christine Skelly | 810-338-8200

Free online courses will focus on human resource, liability, and farm safety issues

EAST LANSING, Mich – Equine business professionals are invited to participate in a dynamic, online short course series where they will be connected with land grant universities, equine business experts, networking opportunities, and other invaluable resources. There are over 1 million horses and 162,000 horse farms in the North Central Region of the United States. It is estimated that 4.6 million Americans in the U.S. are involved in the horse industry as horseowners, service providers, employees and volunteers. The industry employs 701,946 people directly.

Five courses will be offered with a focus on contract/employee labor law, liability issues, working with youth and volunteers, immigration documentation, and farm safety practices. Each course will consist of a webinar, interactive quiz, a decision tool, and online resources. Live webinars will be held on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM EST beginning on February 7, 2013 to coincide with the launch of each short course. All webinars will be recorded and available for viewing at anytime on the next day. Webcast speakers include experts from the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation at Iowa State University and an expert on worker safety from Michigan State University. Upon completion of each course participants will receive a certificate of completion. These courses are offered free of charge.

Equine industry professionals are also encouraged to join the Equine Business Network (EBN) community through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Through partnerships with eXtension/horses and My Horse University, EBN offers an array of free online resources and networking opportunities for equine businesses.

Advance online registration is required however, the courses are offered free of charge. For registration information visit: <http://myhorseuniversity.com/ebn>.

Funded in part by a grant from the North Central Risk Management Education Center, the Equine Business short course series is a collaborative effort between [My Horse University](#), [eXtension/horses](#), [Iowa State University](#), [Michigan State University](#), [University of Minnesota](#), and the [University of Nebraska](#).

Copper Country Farm Bureau Workshop Series

Hosted by the CCFB Young Farmer Committee

To be held in the SISU Room of the Houghton County Arena
1500 Birch Street, Hancock, MI

\$5.00 per person for non Farm Bureau members for each workshop

Animal Husbandry; Vet Science Wednesday March 6 at 7 p.m.

Speaker- Veterinarian John Talsma

Topics covered will include- how to treat minor cuts, injuries, and ailments; what should you stock in your farm medicine cabinet; routine care and vaccinations; questions and answers

Strawberry and Blueberry Growing Tips Wednesday March 13 at 7 p.m.

Topics covered will include- planning, ordering, soil preparation, planting, plant maintenance, harvesting, selling, pruning and questions and answers

Small Livestock and Poultry swap and sale Saturday May 4th 8 a.m. – 12 noon

To be held next to Erickson Feed, Seed and Pet Supply in Hurontown (Houghton)
The public is invited and welcome; No admission fee for buyers or sellers
Swap participants are reminded that they are responsible for complying with all state and local rules and regulations regarding transportation and sale of animals.
Pullorum testing will be available on-site for poultry over 6 months of age. All sheep and goats must be scrapie tagged.

For any questions contact Melanie Lampinen @ 281-4759 or Arthur Lampinen @ 281-2574

Backyard Beekeeping Workshops to be held

By: Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator, Ontonagon County

Ontonagon County Michigan State University Extension is once again teaming up with Les McBean, owner of White Birch Apiary in Bruce Crossing, to offer two Backyard Beekeeping Workshops.

The Beginning Beekeeping workshop will be held Saturday, March 9, 2013 at the Ewen-Trout School, 144 Airport Road in Ewen from 10 am to 4:30 pm EST. McBean will focus on a year in the life of a beekeeper and will cover what equipment is needed to get started, equipment easily made at home, inspecting colonies and recognizing a queen-right colony, a laying worker or queenless colony. Also covered will be the different races of bees, types of queens, requeening, building bear fences, making splits (divides), the latest in beekeeping news, new treatments for mites, emergency feeding-what to use and how, spring medications, spring inspection of over-wintered hives, making comb honey and how to get started with a package in cold weather. Time will be allotted for a question and answer session. Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 6th.

The Advanced Beekeeping workshop will be held Saturday, March 23, 2013 from 10 am to 4:30 pm EST at the Ewen-Trout Creek School, 144 Airport Road in Ewen. McBean will discuss the 2012 season highs and lows and the latest in beekeeping news, when to re-queen, how to build bear fences, making splits (divides), spring/fall medications and new medications available, new treatments for mites, the importance of Integrated Pest Management. Also covered will be making and storing various kinds of comb honey, testing your honey for water content and storing your honey. There will be a demonstration and discussion on how to get a package through a cold spring with various types of emergency feeding and a demonstration on over-winter wraps. Participants interested in a honey exchange can bring a 12-16 ounce jar of their own honey to exchange with others. Time will be allotted for a question and answer session. Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

Pre-registration is required. The registration fee, \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth, 12-18 years old, includes lunch. For more information or for a registration form, contact the Ontonagon County MSU Extension office at 906-884-4386 or email msue66@msu.edu.

For past issues of the U.P. Ag
Connections newsletter visit:
[http://www.agbioresearch.msu.edu/
uprc/newsletter.html](http://www.agbioresearch.msu.edu/uprc/newsletter.html)

What's the U.P. Food Exchange?

The U.P. Food Exchange (UPFE) connects local food activity within each of the Upper Peninsula's three distinct regions (eastern, central, and western), and coordinates local food efforts between the regions. This project aims to establish both online and physical aggregation sites for farm products, improve local food storage capacity, and educate consumers, farmers, and institutional purchasers about the resources and benefits available to them via this network.

Portions of this project are funded by a Regional Food Systems grant received from MDARD in the fall of 2012. Over a 15 month period the grant will help fund the creation of a website and online marketplace and physical enhancement of existing storage/aggregation facilities. The development and dissemination of resources to farmers, consumers and institutions will be ongoing throughout the project.

Each region has a steering committee and several working committees connected to the areas of policy, access, community education, promotion and capacity.

For more information, to learn about local events, volunteer for a committee, share your stories, or join our email list, contact:

Natasha Lantz, Community Liaison, Marquette Food Co-op
(906) 225-0671 x11 · nlantz@marquettefood.coop

Michelle Walk, Community Food Systems Educator, MSU Extension
(906) 635-6368 · walkmich@msu.edu

Ray Sharp, Manager, Community Planning & Preparedness,
Western UP Health Dept
(906) 482-7328 x163 · rsharp@hline.org

Western U.P. Food Hub Meetings

The Western U.P. Food Hub and Food Policy Council is the youngest of the three Upper Peninsula regional food hubs, established in January 2013. The Western U.P. group, like its older siblings in the eastern and central regions, aims to bring food producers and consumers together to grow the supply of, and demand for, local foods. Our vision for the Food Hub/Policy Council is to be a convener of dialogues and partnerships leading to plans, policies and systems that improve access to affordable and healthy foods for residents of Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties.

The first meeting was held in Houghton in January, from which a steering committee and working committees are being formed. Two more informational meetings will be held in March. If you are interested in learning more about the goals and resources of the U.P. Food Exchange and the Western U.P. Food Hub/Policy Council, please consider attending one of these meetings.

Crystal Falls
Wednesday, March 6th
6-8 pm, Forest Park Schools, multi-purpose room

Bruce Crossing/Ewen
Thursday, March 7th
6-8 pm, Ewen-Trout Creek School building, Cafetorium room

Please RSVP to ssalo@hline.org or 906-482-7382 x114

Evaluating, Operating and Scheduling Irrigation Systems

(Irrigation as a Risk Management Tool)

Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.

Baker College - Lake City Campus Center of
Transportation and Technology
4800 S. Morey Rd. (M-66), Lake City, MI
(Just north of the M-66 and M-55 junction)

*** Cost - \$15.00 ***

**Sponsored by Voelker Implement, Lake City, MI
Who should attend?**

Anyone who irrigates including; Corn, alfalfa, other field crops, Christmas trees

Topics

- * **Water Source and Legal Requirements for Irrigation**
- * **New Michigan Cash Lease Farm Template**
- * **Irrigation System Operations**
- * **Irrigation Management and Scheduling: How much you need, when to turn it on and how much to apply**
- * **Irrigation Economics, what can I afford to pay?**
- * **Reporting Large Capacity Water Use**
- * **Chemigation/Fertigation—Using irrigation to maximize your resource inputs**

**Speakers - Lyndon Kelley, MSU & Purdue Extension
Irrigation Educator**

Pascal Nzokou, Department of Forestry, MSU

**Curtis Talley Jr., MSU Extension Farm Management
Educator**

Accommodations for people with disabilities may be requested by calling MSU Extension at 231-779-9480 by March 12, 2013. Requests received after that date will be met if possible.

REMINDER!

Plan now for FFA Alumni consignment auction!

Get that equipment out from behind the barn now

Ad registration deadline April 12th

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

AUCTION: Sunday, May 5th, starting at NOON

Havelka's Construction

on Hwy 41

just south of Wallace, MI.

For more information call:

906-753-4192

BUY OR SELL!

March 2013 - FSA News

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims

USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in their communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: Sept. 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, people seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

To read Secretary Tom Vilsack's news release click on the following link: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/09/0309.xml&contentidonly=true>

Emergency Farm Loans Available

USDA/FSA emergency farms loans are available to qualified producers in all Upper Peninsula Counties as a result of losses caused by the following weather conditions:

DISASTER DESCRIPTION	DATES OF DISASTER	FINAL DATE TO APPLY
The effects of blizzards, excessive snow, excessive heat, excessive rain, high winds, hail, freeze, frost, tornadoes, flooding and lightning	January 1, 2012 to May 11, 2012	March 1, 2013

- Emergency loan funds may be used to:
- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

All emergency loans must be fully collateralized. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000. Loans for crop, livestock, and non-real estate losses are normally repaid within 1 to 7 years; depending on the loan purpose, repayment ability and collateral available as loan security. In special circumstances, terms of up to 20 years may be authorized. Loans for physical losses to real estate are normally repaid within 30 years. In certain circumstances, repayment may be made over a maximum of 40 years. The current annual interest rate for emergency loans is 2.25 percent.

For more information farm operators should contact their local FSA Farm Loan Program office or the Farm Loan Program office in the Gladstone USDA Service Center at 906-428-1060.

DCP and ACRE Sign-up – Make Your Appointment Today!

FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on **Feb. 19, 2013**. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013.

Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

Contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

NAP Deadline for Spring Planted Small Grain Crops – MARCH 15, 2013

The deadline for purchasing your 2013 NAP policies for: Peas, Oats/Barley for Forage, Sorghum, Beans, Potatoes, Triticale, Vegetable Crops, and Corn in some counties is March 15, 2013. Remember – Without insurance you are NOT eligible for National Disaster Programs!

MILC Contracts Automatically Extended

Dairy producers enrolled in the Milk Income Loss Contract program (MILC) will have their contracts automatically extended through Sept. 30, 2013. There is no need to re-enroll in the program. The MILC program was part of several FSA-related programs that were continued with the extension of the 2008 Farm Bill. Specific information regarding changes to the program will be released soon.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H Clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
 - Be 10 years to 20 years of age
 - Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
 - Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
 - Be unable to get a loan from other sources
 - Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
 - Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.
- Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in the warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest.

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: 1.250 percent for 7 years with a loan of \$100,000 or less

1.875 percent for 10 years with a loan of \$100,000 - \$250,000

2.375 percent for 12 years with a loan of \$250,000 - \$500,000

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

MSU Extension Online Crop and Forage Highlights Scheduled for March 14th and 21st

Participants will receive condensed highlights from winter programs regarding grain and forage production, pest management and drought recovery in 2013. Pesticide applicator and MAEAP Phase I educational credits available.

Producers and agribusiness professionals who haven't been able to travel to Michigan State University Extension's recent downstate winter programs have no need to worry. On Thursday evenings March 14th and 21st MSUE will offer Online Crop and Forage Highlights addressing key production points for 2013 in a condensed virtual format. These programs will run from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm EST and can be viewed independently online at no cost over a high-speed internet connection. Those unable to access the programs online can attend one of several group viewing sites throughout the state for \$10 per person.

The March 14th program will focus on enhancing corn and small grain systems in the coming season by addressing emerging production and pest management issues. Presentations will include tips for maximizing corn production from Purdue University corn specialist Dr. Bob Nielsen, small grain production pointers from MSUE educators Martin Nagelkirk and Jim Isleib, a weed management report from Dr. Christy Sprague of MSU, and an insect pest update by MSU Extension's Bruce MacKellar. Viewing sites for this event will be available in Bellaire, Benton Harbor, Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Monroe, Ontonagon, Rogers City, Sault Ste. Marie, St. Johns, Tustin, and West Branch.

The March 21st program will address agronomic, economic and environmental aspects of forage systems. Purdue's Dr. Bob Nielsen will give a presentation on corn silage production, followed by Dr. Kim Cassida of MSU Extension and her discussion of drought recovery management for forages, a presentation on cost of production by MSU Extension's Phil Kaatz, and an introduction to MAEAP verification for forage and livestock systems by Josh Appleby. Viewing sites for March 21st will be available in Bellaire, Benton Harbor, Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Ionia, L'Anse, Monroe, Rogers City, Sault Ste. Marie, St. Johns, Tustin, and West Branch.

Central to Dr. Nielsen's presentations will be a discussion of how growers can increase corn yields in the near term by identifying the unique Yield Influencing Factors (YIFs) that most significantly impact production in their fields. There are countless potential YIFs that effect corn yield, and determining which factors are most important in a particular field is no easy task. For this reason Dr. Nielsen recommends framing your search within the context of corn yield components including plants per acre (population or "stand"), ears per plant (degree of barrenness), kernels per ear (potential vs. actual), and weight per kernel. "Focusing on these yield components will help you narrow your search to specific periods of the growing season simply because the various yield components are "determined" or "set" at different times of the growing season" said Nielsen. If yield in a particular field appears to be limited by insufficient plant population, for example, YIFs that impact seedling emergence and survival such as soil compaction, planting date and starter fertilizer would be likely candidates for improvement.

According to Nielsen the most prevalent YIFs worldwide are those related to water management. Many corn producers are considering ways to conserve soil moisture or provide supplemental water in

2013 following last year's drought. While these YIFs are certainly important in times of limited precipitation, Nielsen will also remind growers that particular YIFs may not be important every year in a given field. As we move through the 2013 growing season insufficient soil drainage may instead prove to be a key YIF in Michigan fields.

To learn more about YIFs and other production points for 2013 register for MSU Extension's Online Crop and Forage Highlights at events.anr.msu.edu/GrainAndForageWebinarSeries. Details on viewing site locations are also available there. Once registered, online participants will receive an email containing a link to connect to the programs. Each event will offer MAEAP Phase I and two MDARD Pesticide Recertification Credits for application to the Private Core, Commercial Core or Field Crops categories.

For additional information or assistance contact James DeDecker at (989) 734-2168 or dedecke5@msu.edu. Call (989) 734-2168 by March 7th, 2013 to request accommodations for persons with disabilities. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Upper Peninsula Research & Extension Center

*Selling 160 Hd. Sim x
Angus Females
2 Simmental Bulls
3 Purebred Angus Bulls*

Sealed bids will be accepted until 12 noon
EDT on March 20, 2013.

More details and a video of the cattle and
bulls can be viewed at the following web
site: [http://lmo.msu.edu/cattle-
sale.html](http://lmo.msu.edu/cattle-sale.html)

For further information contact Paul Naasz
@ Office: 906-439-5114
Cell: 906-235-1357

Please say "THANK YOU" to our sponsors.



Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association

Waukon, Iowa
Feeder Sales Schedule

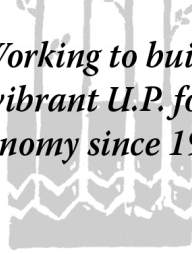
* May-August: 2nd & 4th Thursdays
* Sept-April: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

www.equitycoop.com

the marquette food co-op

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*****If you no longer want to receive this publication, please contact the Ontonagon County MSUE office at 906-884-4386*****


Meetings & Events Calendar

MARCH

- 5 Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference, Bay de Noc College, Escanaba, Michigan, 9:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. EST
- 6 Animal Husbandry workshop, Hancock, MI, 7 p.m. (see page 3 for details)
- 9 Beekeeping workshop, Beginner, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ewen, MI Contact: 906-884-4386
- 12 Annie's Project program, 5:30-9 p.m., Contact Warren Schauer 906-786-3032
- 13 Strawberry/Blueberry Growing Tips, Hancock, MI, 7 p.m. (see page 3 for details)
- 14 Online Grain Crop webinar, 7-9 p.m. EST, contact James DeDecker 989-734-2168
- 16 MCA/MSU bull sale, Crystal, MI, Contact: Brian 989-506-2061
- 19 Annie's Project program, 5:30-9 p.m., Contact Warren Schauer 906-786-3032
- 20 Getting Started with Hoophouses webinar, Contact: Alger County 906-387-2530
- 21 Online Forage Crop webinar, 7-9 p.m. EST, Contact James DeDecker 989-734-2168
- 21 Clare County Livestock Auction, Clare, MI 1 p.m., Contact 810-441-6191
- 23 Beekeeping workshop, Advanced, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact 906-884-4386
- 26 Annie's Project program, 5:30-9 p.m., Contact Warren Schauer 906-786-3032

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APRIL

- 2 Annie's Project program, 5:30-9 p.m., Contact Warren Schauer 906-786-3032
- 16 Annie's Project program, 5:30-9 p.m., Contact Warren Schauer 906-786-3032
- 18 Clare County Livestock Auction, Clare, MI 1 p.m., Contact 810-441-6191
- 20 Yooper Pig Sale, Escanaba Michigan, Contact Todd: 815-592-9291 or Frank: 906-281-0918 (Details on page 2)
- 22-26 Breeding Soundness Exam for Bulls, Thompson Vet Clinic, Manistique, Contact: Frank Wardynski to schedule, 906-884-4386
- 27 Key to Profit sale, Escanaba

May

- 4 Small Livestock and Poultry Swap and Sale, 8 am to Noon, See page 3 for details
- 5 FFA Alumni Consignment Auction, Wallace, MI Contact: 906-753-4192
- 9 Clare County Livestock Auction, Clare, MI 1 p.m., Contact 810-441-6191

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