



# U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

January 2018

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 22 Issue 1

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Does anyone remember when we changed our name from Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service to Michigan State University Extension? I usually don't get too worked up about verbiage. A name is a name and changing it doesn't necessarily change the way we do business or how we work our mission. I remember one of the main reason for the name change is because we are education, not service. That semantic difference wasn't a big deal for me, however I was upset about dropping cooperative out of the name.

I agree, while we do provide some service along the way, our job one is education, or extending information from the university to the clientele. So much of how we do our jobs revolves around cooperation. Our funding, while percentages changing over time continues to come from the federal, state and local levels. We have always had cooperative partnerships with other agencies and organizations. The USDA organizations FSA and NRCS, state organizations MDARD and DNR, local conservation districts, Farm Bureau, and state livestock organizations.

One of the messages we have heard from farmers is that we have too many meetings. Jim Isleib is in the process of contacting other agencies and organizations to find common means to accomplish some of this through cooperative efforts. An example of this will take place this winter during winter beef meetings. The Michigan Cattlemen's Association has been very active lately in efforts to push the State of Michigan to take the bovine tuberculosis situation seriously and hold DNR accountable in helping on the wildlife side of the equation. Cattlemen have been testifying at the Natural Resources Commission to change wildlife management policy. We will be cooperating with MCA during winter meetings to spread that word. And we'll be looking for more of those cooperative efforts. Additionally, MCA will be holding their Summer Roundup here in the Escanaba this June 22, and 23. We are excited for the opportunity to host and showcase the Upper Peninsula beef industry. You will hear more on this later.

Anyone watching will notice that Farm Bureau is a great sponsor and supporter of MSU Extension. Why? Our clients are their members and understand the importance of our cooperative relationship. Which leads me to our most important cooperative efforts, with farmers. A couple years ago Jim organized farmer to farmer meetings gathering input regarding future programming needs. Great ideas came from that and one of the best pieces of information was a common theme suggestion to do more on-farm meetings. If you've paid attention we are still doing that through pasture walks, forage field days, etc. Monica Jean will be conducting a similar meeting concept with coffee clutch meetings.

Along those lines, I'm still looking for cooperators to host pasture walks. This year's theme will be high stock density grazing and long rest rotational grazing. If you're practicing one or both of those management techniques, we would love to visit your farm.

Finally, I would like to ask if anyone is interested in attending an artificial insemination clinic for cattle. Last summer I cooperated with Genex as they conducted a breeding clinic. Later in the Fall I conducted a clinic myself in the western UP. I'm interested in continuing to conduct clinics but need to get a better handle on producer interest. It takes quite a bit of planning to pull this off. The biggest challenge is finding cows to practice on. Consequently, I'm willing to do this but would like to get it set up knowing there are going to be participants willing to attend.

So please give us a call if you are interested in cooperating with some of these programs, or if you have ideas for other educational activities, give us a call. Jim asked for farmers to call us requesting farm visits in a recent News and Views. We've had a few of those calls and the resulting impacts have been good. I have been working individually with UP farmers on their finances also and would welcome that request as well.

Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

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Come learn about how your parlor can make you more money and how to manage your resources for greater impact.

### Agenda:

- Lessons learned from project of monitoring milkings
- Developing protocols and training employees
- Handling cows well and holding pen management
- What is parlor efficiency and is it profitable?
- Identifying mastitis and using on-farm cultures
- 3X or 2X? Which is best?

Speakers include: Dr. Ron Erskine, Paola Bacigalupo, Marianne Buza, Faith Cullens, Phil Durst, Kathy Lee, Martin Mangual and Stan Moore

January 24th 8:30 am—2:00 pm CT  
Menominee County MSU Extension Office

in Stephenson

Lunch included sponsored by  
Menominee County Farm Bureau

## Scholarships available for Tribal farmers/growers

### Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference

Registration only. Attendees will be responsible for their own transportation, meals and lodging. 20 scholarships available.

January 27

8:30am-5:00pm

<http://www.smallfarmconference.com/>

### Farm School

More intensive tracked training the day before Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference. Registration only. 10 scholarships available.

January 26

9:15am-5:00pm

<http://www.smallfarmconference.com/farm-school-session-descriptions-2018/>

### MSU Extension Beginning Farmer Webinar Series

Registration covers all 15 webinars. 20 scholarships available.

January 17 –April 25

Wednesdays from 7-8pm

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=27AF88DA5951327E>

To access these scholarships please contact Kat Jacques at [odonne94@msu.edu](mailto:odonne94@msu.edu) or (906) 280-1786.

## ***Environmental certification progressing on U.P. farms***

*Several farms in the U.P. have gained MAEAP certification recently, demonstrating commitment to farming in an environmentally sound manner.*

By Jim Isleib, Extension Educator

The [Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program](#) (MAEAP) works with Michigan farmers and other property owners to help them achieve environmental certification. The program is voluntary and is provided at no charge to participants. The process involves 3 phases: education at local events or online, working with a technician on-farm to address any environmental issues identified, and then a final verification visit.

The education phase involves attending a meeting or event with content approved for credit by MAEAP. Qualifying events occur frequently across the U.P., including many events sponsored by Michigan State University Extension educators, commodity groups, MAEAP technicians and other presenters. The MAEAP also provides access on their website to qualifying educational videos.

The on-farm phase involves working through one or more of the program's four "systems". Landowners can select from Farmstead; Cropping; Livestock; and Forest, Wetlands & Habitat systems. Workbooks for each system are available for review on the [MAEAP website](#). A statewide staff of [MAEAP technicians](#) is available to assist farmers and landowners with working through the system evaluations and identifying practices to meet MAEAP requirements. All paperwork and information is strictly confidential and

remains with the farmer or landowner.

The verification phase involves a site visit from a [MAEAP verifier](#), who will determine whether all necessary steps have been taken to address issues identified in the workbooks. Once completed, the farm or property can be verified as environmentally assured. Each farm that completes the program is provided with a complementary sign. These verifiers are also excellent people to visit with if you are interested in MAEAP and want more information.

MAEAP certification provides farmers and landowners the satisfaction of knowing they are engaging in environmentally sound practices. Completing the MAEAP process can also help with meeting Michigan's [Right to Farm](#) and [Right to Forest](#) standards.

From June through October, 2017, MAEAP verified seven Upper Peninsula farms and twenty-five Forest, Wetlands & Habitat sites. The farms include Sweeten Farm LLC of Dafter, Hinkson Homegrown of Manistique, Happy Day Farm of Bark River, Seeds and Spores Family Farm of Marquette, Peaceful Acres Farm of Rudyard, Superior Angus-Storch Farm and Superior Angus Farms of Rapid River.

Congratulations to these newly verified U.P. farms!

### ***Local Research, Local Solutions***

MSU Extension has been busy doing research in the Upper Peninsula and we want to share our results with farmers and agribusiness employees! Please join us while we review local solutions for farming issues like variety selection, pest monitoring and fertility management. Our research is diverse covering several commodities like potatoes, peas and oats, alfalfa, hay and novel berries. The Menominee location will discuss composting paper mill residuals.

- Jan. 4th, 1:30-3pm Delta County MSU Extension Office 2840 College Ave, Escanaba
- Jan. 11th, 1:30-3pm CT Menominee MSU Extension Office S904 US Highway 41, Stephenson
- Jan. 17th, 2-3:30pm Rudyard Township Hall 18725 S Mackinac Trail, Rudyard
- Jan. 17th, 6:30- 8pm Garfield Township Hall N6760 M-117, Engadine



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**Chippewa County Fair 2017 Junior Market Livestock Sale**

By Jim Isleib, Extension Educator

The [Chippewa County Fair Junior Market Livestock Sale](#) was held on Saturday, September 2, 2017 at Kinross, MI. The results are impressive, as were the animals. The total of livestock sold was \$302,436.25. All buyers and those who made donations are deeply appreciated.

Fifty steers sold for a total of \$157,630.00 (\$1.25 to \$4.00 per lb)

Grand: McKenzy Wagner, Reserve: Mitchell Miller

One hundred twenty four hogs sold for a total of \$88,271.25 (\$3.25 – \$5.25 per lb)

Grand: Emma Cryderman, Reserve: Niklos Anderson

Seventy one lambs sold for a total of \$36,531.25 (\$3.00 - \$14.00 per lb)

Grand: Bentley Horde, Reserve: Kimberly Jodoin

Fifteen goats sold for a total of \$4,023.75 (\$4.00 – \$6.25 per lb)

Grand: Hailee O'Connor, Reserve: Cale Maciag

Nine rabbits sold for a total of \$1,800 (\$150.00 - \$500.00 each)

Grand: Brent Mauer, Reserve: Delaney MacDowell

Six chickens sold for a total of \$2,075.00 (\$250.00 - \$700.00 each)

Grand: Luke Koben, Reserve: Michaela Zimmerman

Three turkeys sold for a total of \$1,300.00 (\$300.00 - \$600.00 each)

Grand: Levi VanLuven, Reserve: Ronnie Papin

Details about the sale can be found in the October 5, 2017 edition of The Sault News. Many thanks to Mr. Bob Wiles of Rudyard for providing a copy of this paper.

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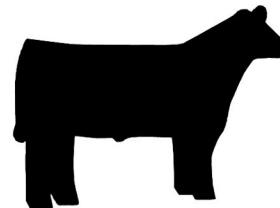
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## Oak Wilt and Other Wonders

Forests are under constant threat from current pests, and more pests are always on the horizon. Forest owners and those interested in forests can help reduce negative impacts by learning about forest health issues.

By Bill Cook, Extension Forester

Oak wilt has been around for at least 75 years. However, only within the last 15-20 years has the exotic disease really begun to make the news in Michigan, and especially over the last five years. Although, state and federal agencies have been fighting the disease for over two decades.

[Oak wilt is a fungus](#) that kills the living tissues under the bark. Once a tree's transportation system is broken, the leaves quickly wilt and most will fall off the tree. This usually happens within a few weeks. The entire tree is killed, not just a part of the tree, especially those in the red oak group (pointy-tipped leaves).

The fungus enters a tree in one of two ways. Overland, a group of picnic beetles inadvertently spreads spores while feeding on sap from oak wounds. Underground, the fungus spreads from tree to tree via root grafts.

The overland spread season runs from mid-April to mid-July. And, that's a somewhat conservative window. For the time being, there are no data to suggest expanding that window, but that could change with [additional research](#). This is important, especially for logging contractors, tree care companies, and crews that maintain utility rights-of-way.

For homeowners, this means that avoiding injury to oaks is important. When wounds do occur, they should be immediately painted-over. Research has shown that the picnic beetles can find fresh wounds in as little as 10-15 minutes.

For current recommendations about oak wilt and disease management, refer to MSU Extension [bulletin E3169](#).

The response to oak wilt depends largely on the environment where the outbreak occurs and the decisions of the property owner. In wildland situations, woodland owners can treat diseased areas using deep trenching or simply let the disease run its course (neighbors might object). This treatment should be set-up by a trained person.

Oak trees in urban and residential environments typically have higher individual value, at least visually, but the situations are usually complicated. Trenching can be difficult to deploy because of nearby infrastructure and multiple property ownerships. Chemical injections can be used as preventative treatments, not curative, but they are expensive and must be repeated.

Prevention is by far the best option. Unfortunately, that isn't always possible.

Oak wilt is not the only exotic pest working in our forests and communities. Nearly everyone has at least heard of the [emerald ash borer](#), first identified in Michigan in 2002. [Beech bark disease](#) is currently running its course through Michigan, some of the last major reserves of the species. Gypsy moths have been in Michigan for quite some time and are now naturalized, for the most part. In southwest Michigan, the [hemlock woolly adelgid](#) has established itself and there are now [quarantines](#) in place. Geographically close to Michigan are the [Asian long-horned beetle](#) and [1000 cankers disease](#) of walnut. Then if you start looking around, there are even more exotic insects and diseases that pose threats to Michigan trees.

Citizens can volunteer to monitor a "sentinel tree" through the "[Eyes on the Forest](#)" program. More observations will increase the likelihood of discovering new exotic infestations while they're still small and can be eradicated. Doubtless, the forest environment of the future will be different than that of just a decade ago.

***Oak wilt spore mat and pressure pad under the bark***



### Market Report

Choice Steers	\$110—\$120 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$75—\$96 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$50—\$56 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$90—\$115 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$45—\$50 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$50—\$110 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$150—\$175 per 100 lbs.

#### Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows \$1000—\$1600/head

Grade Holstein bred heifers \$1200—\$2100/head

#### Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$10.36	\$207.25	\$160-244
Soymeal	\$21.96	\$439.25	\$375-552
Oats	\$11.61	\$232.25	\$190-450
Barley	\$9.63	\$192.50	\$160-240
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

## Master Gardeners receive recognition for volunteer hours in teaching proper gardening practices

By Rebecca Krans, Extension Educator

[Michigan State University Extension Master Gardeners](#) from Michigan's Upper Peninsula recently received recognition for their continued efforts in volunteering within their communities and teaching others about gardening. From teaching youth how to garden and enjoy the bounty of fresh vegetables to helping members of community gardens learn more to beautifying numerous sites using the right plant right place practice, they volunteered over 2,000 hours in Upper Peninsula counties in 2017. Statewide, Extension Master Gardeners volunteered over 133,000 hours to communities across Michigan. This equates to an economic contribution of over \$3.3 million to the state of Michigan.

Projects within the Upper Peninsula involving the most people reached with gardening education focused around beautifying communities, community gardening and youth gardening. Over 2,500 Upper Peninsula youth and adults were directly reached through Extension Master Gardener projects in 2017.

A few of the objectives an Extension Master Gardener might focus on include helping others in community settings learn how to determine the current soil conditions and properly select the right plants and care for them. Some projects also focus on quality of life, vegetable gardening and environmental stewardship and integrated pest management.

Two Advanced Extension Master Gardeners received recognition for achieving hour milestones: Carol Fitzgerald has volunteered 500 hours and Elizabeth Slajus has volunteered 250 hours. Eleven received recognition for earning Master Gardener certification: Carolyn Bissell, Jeannie DeClerck, Matthew Hansen, Quincy Higgins-Arney, Maria Janowiak, Henry Knoch, Sarah Kuhl, Frances Michaels, Erin Matas, Mary Ovist and Nancy Reed. Two Extension Master Gardeners received recognition for gaining Advanced Extension Master Gardener status: Phyllis Johnson and Cathy Starrett.

Currently, there are over 100 certified Extension Master Gardeners and trainees residing in 10 Upper Peninsula counties. Trainees have completed the training course but have not yet completed the volunteer hour requirement for certification.

**A training course recently ended in Marquette, Michigan, and a [new training course in Iron Mountain, Michigan, is now open for registration until Jan. 11.](#)**

In order to remain an [Extension Master Gardener](#), participants must annually renew and complete an additional 20 volunteer hours and 10 educational hours on an annual basis. Check out the [MSU Extension Master Gardener Program](#) to learn more.

For more information on a wide variety of Smart Gardening topics, visit the [Gardening in Michigan website](#) or contact MSU's toll-free Lawn and Garden Hotline at 1-888-678-3464.

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## MSU Extension Field Crops Webinar Series

MSU Extension will offer a series of six online programs highlighting field crop production and pest management on Monday evenings from February 19<sup>th</sup> through March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Participants will learn how to enhance their corn, soybean, small grain and forage production systems in the coming season, and have an opportunity to ask questions of MSU agriculture experts. The live webinar presentations will run 7:00-8:00 PM EST each Monday evening. One MDARD Pesticide Recertification Credit will be available through each webinar for application to one of the following categories: Private Core, Commercial Core or Field Crops. Participants can view the programs independently online. However, pre-registration is required for all participants at a cost of \$20.00 for the full series of six webinars or \$5.00 per individual webinar session. Visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/FieldCropsWebinarSeries2018/> to register and access connection information. Contact James DeDecker at (989) 734-2168 or [dedecke5@msu.edu](mailto:dedecke5@msu.edu) for more information, or by February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to request accommodations for persons with disabilities. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.

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### Classifieds

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

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*President: Scott Nance*

*Secretary: Mary Robertson*

### Plan your vegetable garden with Smart Gardening with Vegetables 101 webinar

By Rebecca Krans, Extension Educator

Do you want to learn more about growing your own vegetables? Would you like to learn techniques that are smart for the environment and your pocketbook? The [Smart Gardening with Vegetables 101 Webinar Series](#) is designed specifically for introductory and beginning vegetable gardeners. It focuses on important factors to consider before beginning a vegetable garden, what is required for success and other smart gardening practices such as creating healthy soils, composting, plant selection and smart pest management.

Now in its fifth year, the [Smart Gardening with Vegetables 101 Webinar Series](#) has reached over 600 Michigan and neighboring state residents with sustainable practices to use within their vegetable gardens. A recent participant commented, "I enjoyed this type of format of learning."

Registration is now open for the January through February 2018 series. It will be held on Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. EST starting on Jan. 16, 23, 30 and Feb. 13, 20, 27. All you need is a computer and high speed internet. Attend the live sessions or view recordings. Another past participant said they "really enjoy the convenience of the recordings."

The early registration fee of \$30 is available if you register by Jan. 5, otherwise it's \$40 after Jan. 5. There is also a group rate for organizations who would like to host this webinar series for a group, which is \$70 by Jan. 5 and \$80 after Jan. 5. Group coordinators are required to complete additional group information and email this to course instructors. A supplemental CD may also be purchased for \$37.

For more information on a wide variety of Smart Gardening topics, visit the [Gardening in Michigan website](#) or contact MSU's toll-free Lawn and Garden Hotline at 1-888-678-3464.

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***Calendar of Events***

**Ag for Tomorrow Conference**

March 13 – Bay College, Escanaba

**MSUE U.P. Crop Research Updates**

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*

Jan 10 – Negaunee (Marquette MSUE office)

Feb 6 – Escanaba (State Office Building)

**Making More Profit from the Parlor**

Dairy Meeting

January 24th 8:30—2 pm CT

Menominee County Extension Office, Stephenson

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