

Vol 3. May
MICHIGAN STATE
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Extension

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Credits
Available!



*Agriculture
for
Tomorrow
Conference*

Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 9:00 – 4:00 EST

Bay College, Escanaba

Joseph Heirman University Center

2001 N Lincoln Rd, Escanaba, MI 49829

Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference

Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 - Bay College, Escanaba, MI

9:00-9:45 (EST)	Registration & Educational Exhibits—Joseph Heirman University Center (JHUC) Atrium			
9:45-10:30 JHUC 952	Welcome: Dr. James DeDecker, Director, Upper Peninsula Research & Extension Center Overview of Farm Service Agency County Committees—Teddy Jaquette, County FSA Exec. Dir. Keynote Address: “An Updated Strategic Plan for MSU’s Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center: Review of Stakeholder Input Received”—Dr. James Averill, Assoc. Director AgBioResearch			
	<u>SPECIALITY CROPS TRACK—JHUC 901</u>	<u>FIELD CROP & FORAGE TRACK—JHUC 903</u>	<u>HOMESTEAD TRACK—JHUC 911</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK TRACK—JHUC 961</u>
10:45-11:40	A-1 Storing Crops for Winter Sales (remote)	A-2 (RUP credits) Advances In Hay Production	A-3 Grazing and Silvopasture in Michigan	A-4 Preparing Calves for Feeder Sales
11:40-12:10	Visit Tradeshow Exhibitors & Sponsors in JHUC 952 Conference Room			
12:10-1:00	Lunch in Cafeteria (Student Center Room 533)			
1:00-1:55	B-5 (RUP credits) Reduced Tillage Outcomes for Soil, Climate and Crops	B-6 Decisions to Consider & Instruments Used for Farm Transfer	B-7 Preserving the Harvest at Home	B-8 How Do Cattle Producers Select Beef Replacement Heifers?
2:05-3:00	C-9 (RUP credits) Growing Superior Tomatoes in the UP	C-10 (RUP credits) Key notes for Successful No-Till in the Upper Peninsula	C-11 Grafting Fruit Trees for the DIYer	C-12 (RUP credits) Common Diseases and Internal Parasites of Sheep and Goats
3:10-4:05	D-13 Intro to Agriculture in Pakistan	D-14 Soil Health Sampling, Analysis and Interpretation	D-15 (RUP credits) Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs & Assistance	D-16 Deciphering EPD's for Beef Cattle Selection

Registration Form

Name(s): _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Cost of attendance is \$30 for pre-registration

- * Due by March 1st – online (below) or mail paper form
- * After March 1st, the registration fee will be \$40 per person online and at the door.
- * On-site registration is cash or check only, no cards!

Fee includes lunch and materials

Number of attendees-- _____ x \$30 = _____

For **registration information** contact Frank Wardynski @ wardynsk@msu.edu, 906-884-4386

If you are **interested in being a sponsor, vendor, and/or exhibitor**, contact Paul Naasz at naasz@msu.edu or 906-439-5114

Make checks payable to: MSU Extension

Send check and form to:

MSUE Ontonagon County

725 Greenland Rd.

Ontonagon, MI 49953-1492

Receipts will be available at the door



To register on-line go to: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2025Ag4Tomorrow/>

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Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference

Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 - Bay College, Escanaba, MI

Session A 10:45-11:40 am

A-1—JHUC 901

Storing Crops for Winter Sales (remote)

Storing crops for winter sales is a great way to diversify crops and markets, spread workload more-evenly throughout the year, and improve local food security! This workshop will help storage-newbies over the learning curve and provide some perspective to seasoned storage farmers. With tips from successful storage farms across the country, we will cover harvest/processing logistics and equipment; methods for curing and storage; and functional storage infrastructure.

Sam Knapp, Farmer—Offbeat Farm

A-2—JHUC 903

Advances In Hay Production

Join this session for an overview of how to optimize sustainable hay production and achieve greater return on your forage investments.

Phil Kaatz, MSU Extension

A-3—JHUC 911

Grazing and Silvopasture in Michigan

Silvopasture is a highly sustainable farming practice that integrates trees, forages, and livestock on the same plot of land, creating a system that supports biodiversity, enhances soil health, and boosts farm resilience. In Michigan, this practice is gaining traction as more farmers and land managers seek ways to diversify their operations while improving environmental stewardship. Let's break down what's been happening in Michigan regarding silvopasture, as well as the available resources.

Kable Thurlow, MSU Extension

A-4—JHUC 961

Preparing Calves for Feeder Sales

This presentation will discuss health protocols for preconditioning feeder calves prior to sale, including management and prevention of *Mycoplasma bovis* in young calves.

Gustavo Pena, DVM—Zoetis Dairy Technical Services

Session C 2:05-3:00 pm

C-9—JHUC 901

Growing Superior Tomatoes in the UP

This presentation will cover the basics of growing tomatoes, best practices for varieties, soil fertility, pruning & trellising, pest management, and how prolong your tomato growing season.

Miranda Fletcher, MSU-UPREC

C-10—JHUC 903

Key notes for Successful No-Till in the Upper Peninsula

The Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center implemented no-till practices in 1991. Hear about our successes and failures, pros and cons, and participate in an open discussion of no-till management practices.

Paul Naasz, MSU-UPREC

C-11—JHUC 911

Grafting Fruit Trees for the DIYer

Learning to graft fruit trees is a great way to increase your fruit selection, save the genetics of older trees that you might like, control the size of the mature tree, provide disease resistance etc. This session will cover the basics of what is needed for grafting tools, when to graft, how to graft, how to care for newly grafted trees, and realistic expectations for survival and growth.

Dr. Jesse Randall, MSU Forestry Innovation Center

C-12—JHUC 961

Common Diseases and Internal Parasites of Sheep and Goats

Join this session to learn about identification and treatment of basic diseases and internal parasites that are common in sheep in goat production.

Mike Metzger, MSU Extension

Session B 1:00-1:55 pm

B-5—JHUC 901

Reduced Tillage Outcomes for Soil, Climate and Crops

Organic growers often rely on tillage for bed preparation, amendment incorporation, weed control and crop termination, at times to the detriment of soil health. Reduced tillage methods like roller-crimping of cover crops and tarping have been developed to address this challenge, but little research has been conducted to assess their effects on soil health, climate resilience and crop performance. We compared five different tillage practices on two organic farms in the Central UP with results pointing to best management practices for farmers and gardeners alike based on their individual priorities for plants, soil and the environment.

Dr. Matt Van Grinsven, NMU & Dr. James DeDecker, MSU-UPREC

B-6—JHUC 903

Decisions to Consider & Instruments Used for Farm Transfer

This session will cover some of the big picture decisions to consider, and the agreements that need to be made, to move forward with succession planning. We will also look briefly at some of the instruments used (trusts, gifts, land contracts, etc.) for farm transfer.

Chris Bardenhagen, MSU Extension

B-7—JHUC 911

Preserving the Harvest at Home

Join this session for food preservation tips and tricks including modern vs. past practices, foodborne illness risk management, and what to do with preserved foods. We'll also discuss opportunities with Cottage Food Law and the benefits of connecting with MSU Product Center and MDARD.

Stephanie Ostrenga Sprague, MSU Extension

B-8—JHUC 961

How Do Cattle Producers Select Beef Replacement Heifers?

This session will feature a panel of UP beef producers explaining how they select replacement heifers to meet their goals. Panelists will include Jon Haindl, Michelle Sweeten and others.

Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension

Session D 3:10-4:05 pm

D-13—JHUC 901

Intro to Agriculture in Pakistan

Join Dr. Umair Ashraf, a Fulbright post-doctoral Scholar hosted by MSU-UPREC, for a tour of agriculture in Pakistan. Learn about the unique environment, crops and people that make agriculture the backbone of Pakistan's economy with significant contributions to global food and fiber production.

Dr. Umair Ashraf, Fulbright Scholar, MSU-UPREC

D-14—JHUC 903

Soil Health Sampling, Analysis and Interpretation

This session will offer a look at easy on-farm tests to track soil health for your operation, giving you tools to make improvements to your resilience system-wide.

Michelle Sweeten, MDARD Regenerative Agriculture

D-15—JHUC 911

Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs & Assistance

This session will combine a presentation and panel discussion of the technical and financial assistance opportunities offered to local farmers and landowners through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

*Mike Van Wyck – District Conservationist, Gladstone
Brett Swanson – Area Program Specialist, Marquette
Alisha Autio-Wiitala – Area Natural Resource Specialist, Marquette
Craig Aho – Area Resource Conservationist, Marquette*

D-16—JHUC 961

Deciphering EPD's for Beef Cattle Selection

This session will explain Expected Progeny Differences (EPD's) and how to use them in beef cattle selection. Every producer is looking for different criteria in selecting breeding stock. The presenter will identify methods of finding EPD's for each important trait for your farm.

Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension

Bay de Noc Community College
2001 N Lincoln Rd, Escanaba, MI 49829

Directions to J. Heirman Center **Parking Lot A:**

From the North and East: From highway US 2 & 41 go west past the Travelodge Motel to the stoplight at Danforth Road. Turn right and go about 1/10 mile to first driveway on the right.

From South and West: From highway US 2 & 41 go east past KFC restaurant and under the railroad viaduct to the stoplight at Danforth Road. Turn left and go about 1/10 mile to the first driveway on the right.

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