



# U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

February 2022

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 26 Issue 2

## In this issue:

### Retiring MSU Extension Educator Bids a Fond Farewell....

Jim Isleib, MSUE Upper Peninsula Crop Production Educator

With mixed feelings of joy, sadness, relief and satisfaction, I am making my exit in mid-February from my role as an Upper Peninsula extension agent. 32+ years is a pretty long stretch, and I have met many interesting people and made a lot of friends across the region. Working with farmers, gardeners, home and property owners, businesses and others has been a real pleasure for me. I expect I have learned more for myself than I have taught others.

The people of Alger County, where I made my home and raised my family since 1989, have made me feel welcomed and valued. Voter approval from Alger County residents of a special millage for the county MSU Extension program (5 times over the last 21 years) has been the most meaningful display of support I could hope for. My MSU Extension colleagues and myself here in Alger County are deeply appreciative.

I started my career as Alger County Extension Director & Ag/Natural Resources Agent. Over the years, the job and the entire organization have morphed and shifted, but my goal to provide people with useful, research-based information from MSU and other reliable sources hasn't changed. At present, I'm responsible for crop-based extension work across the entire region. Compared to the 'good old days', when a general-purpose ag agent served a single county, it is difficult, if not impossible, to create and maintain close relationships with individual farmers. This newsletter, initiated many years ago by Ben Bartlett, has provided a good link with U.P. farmers. Internet technology, including email, ZOOM meetings, web pages, and social media has also helped a very small U.P. ag extension group maintain connection. Thank you all for your interest.

MSU Extension is planning to replace my position with a new person, most probably located in Delta County. Another hay/forage-focused position for the eastern U.P. is also under consideration. I am optimistic that fresh, energetic people will keep the work of extension moving forward in our region. If you are aware of people who might be interested in U.P. extension crop work, please let them know about these possibilities. I'd be happy to talk to them.

I've been sorting through the files, bookcases, closets and photos in my office. It causes a person to reflect and consider a career of work and the people it has involved. Overall, I feel very blessed with the opportunity to live and work here, and serve the farming community in the U.P. I hope my efforts have helped some people. There's a lot of angles, but I'll take a shot at what I've enjoyed the most, and what I haven't....

Enjoyed:

- Meeting farmers and other ag people of all kinds from just about every corner of the U.P.
- Conducting on-farm projects with local farms on topics of interest
- Planning and conducting meetings, field days, pasture walks, etc.
- Working closely with fine MSU Extension colleagues
- Providing valuable services to the farming community (soil testing, diagnostic help, business planning, etc)
- Home gardening programs and individual advice

Not so much enjoyment:

- Budget battles to keep MSU Extension going
- Trying to keep up with technology (computer advances, cell phones, etc, etc)
- Office chores (lots of these – regular reporting to MSU, financial work, other MSU requirements)
- Pandemic restrictions (what a way to end a career!)
- Driving at night in snowstorms (done quite a lot of this)

All told, the enjoyable part greatly outweighs the other! I hope to see many of you in years to come...at ag events, the U.P. State Fair, or just 'around'. I and wife Diane will be staying put in Munising for the near future, maybe moving to Marquette County eventually to be closer to our kids and grandkids. I wish you all 'Happy Trails'!

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## Seed to Kitchen Collaborative—2021 Carrot Variety Report

### Management

In 2021, ten carrot varieties (five orange, five purple) were trialed at the MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham, MI. Plots 3.33 ft wide x 7 ft long were laid out in a RCBD design with 3-4 replications. Prior to planting, a cover crop of buckwheat was seeded in the field May 11 and terminated June 24. Fertility was applied just prior to planting, and consisted of a feather meal based 10-0-4 fertilizer from Morgan's Composting called Safe Green Lawn applied at 500 lbs/ac (0.011 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>). Raw carrot seed was direct-seeded in 3 rows per plot (13 inch spacing) July 15 on open raised beds made with a rototiller and custom bed shaper. Soil was kept moist with overhead irrigation until germination, and watered with overhead irrigation as needed throughout the growing period. Plots were thinned to 1 inch between carrots in-row on August 10. Weeds were controlled with flame weeding (pre-emerge), hoeing and hand weeding. Carrots were harvested October 14 (orange) and October 21 (purple).

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Market Class</u>	<u>Color</u>
Bejo	Adelaide	Nantes (baby)	Orange
Johnny's	Bolero	Nantes	Orange
High Mowing	Dolciva	Nantes	Orange
Bejo	Napoli	Nantes	Orange
Bejo	Yaya	Nantes	Orange
Johnny's	Deep Purple	Imperator	Purple
Siskiyou	Dragon	Imperator	Purple
Johnny's	Purple Elite	Imperator	Purple
Johnny's	Purple Haze	Imperator	Purple
Johnny's	Purple Sun	Imperator	Purple



### Traits

*Traits field:* Marketable Count, Marketable Weight (kg), Unmarketable Count, Unmarketable Weight (kg), Plant Height (cm).

*Notes on trait measurement:*

Top height was measured before harvest at three points in each plot and averaged. Analysis was conducted at the per plot level. Comparisons were made within market classes (colors).

### Quality evaluation

*Chef taste testing:*

Flavor evaluation was done by eight local chefs in the Marquette/Alger County area. Varieties were packed with an individual alphanumeric code (no variety names were included in boxes). Boxes were delivered to chefs, including instructions for evaluation and a QR code linking to Qualtrics where data was entered. Flavor intensity and complexity were rated on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high). Appearance, texture, root size, and overall flavor were rated from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). The likelihood that they would buy it for their restaurant (1=no way, 5=yes, definitely) and perceived ease of preparation (1=difficult, 5 = easy) were also rated.

### Orange Carrots (field)

(\* indicates varieties statistically similar to the “best” variety in each category shown in **BOLD**)

Variety	Total weight (lbs/plot)	Marketable Count (#/plot)	Marketable Weight (lbs/plot)	Unmarketable Proportion (%)	Overall Flavor (1-5)	Willingness to Purchase (1-5)
Adelaide	25.24	<b>154.75</b>	20.38	19%*	2.29	2.43
Bolero	35.55	146.75*	30.37	<b>15%</b>	3.29*	3.43*
Dolciva	28.40	123.50*	22.66	20%*	2.71*	3.14*
Napoli	<b>42.51</b>	121.75*	<b>34.67</b>	19%*	3.00*	3.00*
Yaya	34.84	136.75*	28.94	17%*	<b>3.57</b>	<b>4.14</b>

### Purple Carrots (field)

(\* indicates varieties statistically similar to the “best” variety in each category shown in **BOLD**)

Variety	Total weight (lbs/plot)	Marketable Count (#/plot)	Marketable Weight (lbs/plot)	Unmarketable Proportion (%)	Overall Flavor (1-5)	Willingness to Purchase (1-5)
Deep Purple	12.03	35.00	7.42	37%	<b>3.87</b>	3.86*
Dragon	<b>20.91</b>	57.00*	15.52*	26%	3.27*	3.27*
Purple Elite	20.75*	60.00*	<b>17.07</b>	<b>18%</b>	3.60*	3.80*
Purple Haze	15.37	<b>64.33</b>	12.57	18%*	3.60*	3.47*
Purple Sun	10.70	39.67	7.27	32%	3.80*	<b>4.00</b>



The Michigan Community Mediation Association (MCMA) has been awarded the Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program (MAMP) by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This program offers free mediation services to Michigan farmers and loggers to resolve their disputes outside of court. Farmers' disputes covered by this grant can range from contract issues, estate and probate complications, adverse determinations by the USDA, bankruptcy, divorce, and any other conflict they may face. Logging and timber disputes that involve the Forest Service or the Natural Resource Conservation Service are also covered.

MCMA is an advocacy, not-for-profit association for the 17 Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) mediation centers that cover all 83 counties in Michigan. The centers are partially funded by the Michigan Supreme Court State Court Administrative Office (SCAO).

Farmers having issues with local ordinances such as townships when it comes to using their property for weddings or wanting to put up a local produce stand are examples of when mediation can be utilized. More topics to mediate include property disputes, farm succession, estate planning, agricultural and rural development loans, wetland determinations, etc.

"Michigan's farmers work to feed our communities and families 24/7, 365 days a year and mediation provides an avenue for them to be an integral part of the conflict resolution process. MDARD is proud to support MCMA," said Gary McDowell, MDARD Director. "I encourage farmers to look into mediation as a viable option for resolving conflict."

Mediation is a confidential process where disputing parties discuss their issues with a neutral third party, the mediator, who will guide the process for a productive conversation and work towards a resolution. Agricultural mediators are trained in USDA issues and this process allows for all participants to give input so that everyone involved is heard.

"Farmers already have heavy issues to navigate on a daily basis," said Kelly Turner, CEO of Potato Growers of Michigan. "Whether it's a supply chain shortage, finding workers, or navigating continually changing weather conditions. What they don't need is to have extra legal issues hanging over their head in the years to come. Now they can contact MCMA and request a free mediation to resolve any dispute they may be facing."

CDRP mediators are required to complete 40 hours of SCAO-approved General Civil training or 48 hours of SCAO-approved Domestic training, practical experience supervised by seasoned mediators, and continuing education. To mediate agricultural cases, the mediators are also required to participate in 20 additional hours of advanced training.

"Our mediators are highly skilled and trained on how to best serve their community members facing conflict in a respectful, professional manner," said Shannon Taylor, Director of Upper Peninsula Commission of Area Progress (UPCAP) Conflict Resolution Program and MCMA's Training Committee Chairwoman. "I am certain they will bring this same level of expertise to the Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program and to our farmers."

Farmers who wish to request a mediation or for more information can contact MCMA at [www.micommunitymediation.org](http://www.micommunitymediation.org) email [micommunitymediationassoc@gmail.com](mailto:micommunitymediationassoc@gmail.com) or by calling 800-616-7863

Respectfully submitted by Nikki Dowd-McKechnie, Executive Director, E.U.P. Community Dispute Resolution Center

### Help Wanted

Seeking an experienced farmer to help with cattle operation and grain crops on an 800+ acre farm in Garden, Michigan on the Upper Peninsula. Now accepting applications. Farmer is responsible for daily care, health and over all well-being of cattle and will have experience in hay or grain production. Applicants should have the ability to lift up to 50lbs and to operate various farm equipment and provide basic repair and maintenance. Compensation is competitive based on experience. Housing is available for this position.

Please forward a summary of your current skills and relevant work history to [deltagardenfarm@gmail.com](mailto:deltagardenfarm@gmail.com) or contact us at 773-929-6007. Please also include a contact number so we can call you to discuss the opportunity further.

[Michigan State University Extension](#) will be conducting an **Advanced Grazing School February 24, and 25, 2022**, in the eastern Upper Peninsula (Waishkey Bay Farm, 10135 W. Mills Rd, Brimley, MI 49715) in hopes of attracting graziers from across the state. This workshop is for graziers that have multiple years of experience, use a system of rotational grazing, and want to further enhance the outcomes of their grazing efforts. The emphasis of this workshop will not be on the right thing to do, but on ideas and information a producer can use to further their grazing program. Therefore, it will be critical for each person to be prepared to look at their operations and be ready to write a work plan for the next year and the next 5 years. Each person will be expected to share some of their ideas and participate in the discussion.

Renowned grazing expert, Ben Bartlett will be the featured presenter. MSU Extension Educators, Kable Thurlow and Frank Wardynski are organizing the activities and will share in teaching and leading group discussion. Also, MSU Extension Specialists Jason Rowntree and Paul Gross, Extension Educator will give presentations.

The goal of the workshop is to have each participant become exposed to some of the newest information on grazing and to leave with a workbook of action plans for their operation. This workshop wants to help you carve out the time, be exposed to new thinking, and most importantly, put a plan together to move your grazing program to a new level of performance. Additionally, this workshop will become the initial planning session for summer pasture walks at various locations across the state.

Participants can register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/advancedgrazingschool2022>

The cost will be \$150/person if signed up by February 20, 2022. Group discounts will be given to farms bringing more than one participant, cost for group participation is \$130/person. The program is limited to 30 people, and we encourage farms to bring two people for group work. **Registration deadline is February 20, 2022.** For more information contact Kable Thurlow at 989-426-7741 or [thurlowk@msu.edu](mailto:thurlowk@msu.edu) or Frank Wardynski at 906-884-4386 or [wardynsk@msu.edu](mailto:wardynsk@msu.edu).

#### Help Wanted

Partridge Creek Farm, in partnership with Ishpeming School District No. 1, is building a downtown Intergenerational Farm and farm-to-school program and we are seeking a farm manager to help guide the farm planning, curriculum writing and eventually oversee the farm operations. [Here is the role description.](#) Please reach out to May with any questions, [may@partridgecreekfarm.org](mailto:may@partridgecreekfarm.org).

### **Bull Evaluation Program Seeking Stakeholder Recommendations**

While the MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation is proceeding as scheduled in 2022, the committee has started discussing options for the future of the program. New management needs to be recruited and facility options need to be weighed. Potential facility options include continuing in the program's current location, moving the program to a different location, or other opportunities not yet identified. The committee welcomes comments, recommendations, and interest from stakeholders as decisions will need to be made soon for next year's program. Suggestions can be submitted by calling George Quackenbush, MCA Executive Vice-President at 517-347-8117 or by email to [info@micattlemen.org](mailto:info@micattlemen.org). All input will be offered for the program committee's consideration.



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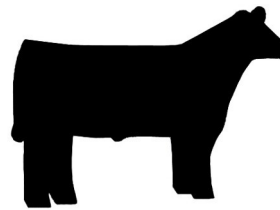
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## Classifieds

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Maternal sire is J. Edgar Hoover, Select Sire & Genex breeding,  
AI Breeding for 43 years. Call (906) 265-5217.

**FOR SALE: Simmental Bulls**, mature and young, registered and  
non-registered. Call Duane Kolpack (906) 362-6862.

**FOR SALE: 2nd and 3rd crop alfalfa**, small square bales.  
Marenger Potato Farm, Flat Rock. (906) 384-6587.

**FOR SALE: Hay**, large square bales 3x3x7.75 Timothy grass,  
4,000 to sell. Former dairy farm doing all big square bales hay.  
Call Dave Bell in the EUP 906-440-6455 or email  
Bellsdairy@yahoo.com. Also a realtor in the UP so contact me  
for real estate here. Dave@smith-company.com

## Market Report

Choice Steers	\$110-\$145 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$100-\$128 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$48-\$59 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$200-\$310 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$65-\$75 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$75-\$105 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$200-\$375 per 100 lbs.

### Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows \$1700/head

Grade Holstein bred heifers \$2100/head

### Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$15.68	\$313.65	\$265-440
Soymeal	\$27.16	\$543.25	\$500-624
Oats	\$18.25	\$365.00	\$320-420
Barley	\$13.91	\$278.25	\$200-394
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

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