



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

December 2020

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 24 Issue 12

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[State-certified pesticide applicators](#) – Here’s an update on the current situation...

Jim Isleib, MSU Extension U.P. Crop Production educator

Pesticide applicator certification is required by law for:

- ‘Private’ applicators (farmers) who purchase and/or apply Restricted Use Pesticides (a [listing](#) of these products is available on the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MDARD) web page)
- ‘Commercial’ applicators (anyone applying any type of pesticide in the course of their employment)

There are additional categories called ‘Registered applicators’ and ‘Approved trainers’. However these categories are not commonly needed in the U.P. See the [MDARD website](#) for details.

Certification is gained by passing MDARD exams (single exam for ‘private’, core + category exams for ‘commercial’) and lasts for 3 years. Certified applicators may renew by retesting, or by accumulating ‘recertification credits’ at MDARD-approved educational workshops.

MDARD is not currently offering in-person testing due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. MSU Extension is not currently offering in-person reviews for people to prepare for MDARD exams.

In partnership with MDARD, [Metro Institute is offering computer-based certification exams](#) at many testing centers throughout Michigan, including Bay College in Escanaba. To schedule a computer-based exam with Metro Institute, Google ‘MDARD - Examination Process and Instructions’ and follow links. Test-takers pay the regular MDARD exam fee plus a separate fee to Metro for each exam taken. If the exam is not passed, the test-taker can re-test without paying the MDARD fee again, BUT they will have to pay Metro each time they take a test regardless if they pass or fail. MDARD is working with Metro Institute to be able to offer online pesticide exam sessions where applicators will be able to test from home. They are hoping to be able to offer these exams in early 2021. For more information on computer-based exams, visit the [MDARD website](#) or contact U.P. MDARD pesticide inspector Diane Bomer (see below).

[Pesticide exam study books can be purchased on-line](#) at the National Pesticide Safety Education Center website. MSU Extension offices have also been a source of manuals, but are temporarily closed due to the pandemic. The ‘Private’ core manual is for farmers. The ‘Commercial’ core is for all others, along with appropriate category manuals.

MSU Extension is offering a variety of on-line opportunities for people to prepare for exams and/or gain recertification credits:

- Recorded, 4 hour review of the core manual (no charge) by MSU Extension educators at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/pesticide-review-for-private-applicators> NO CREDITS
- [The Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) Academy](#), on-demand – 6 credits, \$10
- [Hop Production in Midwest and Eastern North America](#), on-demand – 4 credits, \$50
- [Thumb Ag Day 2020](#), Dec 9 2020 – 3 credits, no charge
- [Great Lakes Expo](#), Dec 8-10 (credits depend on individual on-line sessions attended), \$40
- [Virtual Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update](#), Dec 16, 2020 – 4 credits (includes 2021 MSU Weed Control Guide), \$30
- [Regional U.P./North MI Crop and Pest Management Webinar](#), Jan 15, 2021 - \$15 (includes 2021 MSU Weed Control Guide) - \$15
- Other [MDARD-approved seminars](#) are available on the MDARD website.

[An article describing these offerings](#) is available on-line. Google ‘Michigan pesticide applicator recertification credits available online before the end of the year’.

MSU Extension also offers a [new on-line, on-demand course](#) for people planning to take an exam, or who want to get recert credits. 12 credits available for the course. \$75. For details, Google ‘Pesticide course offered for private and commercial pesticide applicators’.

For more details on acquiring and maintaining Michigan Pesticide Applicator Certification, contact MDARD pesticide inspector Diane Bomer at 906-250-7051 or bomerd2@michigan.gov.

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MSU Extension on-line meetings on crop production and economic issues

There are 3 opportunities coming soon for Upper Peninsula farmers to keep up-to-date on feed, forage and cash crop information. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 and MSU's restrictions on staff travel and in-person contact, these programs are offered as on-line 'webinars'.

Virtual Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update 2020

Wednesday Dec. 16, 2020 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST

Register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/ICPM2020/>

The program will include:

- Update on EPA Framework to Address Resistance in Bt Corn — Chris DiFonzo
- Optimizing Planting Decisions in Corn/Soy — Manni Singh
- Disease Management Update — Marty Chilvers
- Soil/Crop Fertility Research Update — Kurt Steinke
- Break
- Tackling Horseweed (Marestail) and Waterhemp Issues in 2021 — Christy Sprague
- Weed Management: Challenges from 2020, Preparing for 2021 — Erin Burns
- Summary of the 2020 Soybean On-Farm Research Trials — Mike Staton
- Wheat Research Update — Dennis Pennington
- Short- and Long-term Market Outlook — Matt Gammans
- Farm Stress Resources — Eric Karbowski

Credits available:

- Four continuing education units (CEU's) for Certified Crop Advisors (2.0 PM, 1.5 CM, 0.5 NM)
- Four pesticide re-certification (RUP) credits (Private/Commercial Core, or Field Crops 1A)
- Credits can only be awarded to individuals registered for the event and participating via their own device. If a group views the program from one location/device, only one person will be eligible for the credits.

Cost:

- \$30 (includes the 2021 MSU Weed Control Guide, shipped)
- Weed Guides should be received by registrants by the time of the event if paid registrations are received by Sunday, December 6. Registrations received after this date may result in Guides arriving after the event. Mailing to a PO box may also slow shipping.
- Weed Guides will be mailed when payment is received, so payment with credit card is recommended to ensure timely delivery of the guides.
- Cancellations received after the Weed Control Guide is shipped will incur the full \$30 cancellation fee.

Virtual Pest and Crop Management Update 2021 (regional meetings, including U.P./Northern MI)

UP/Northern MI Regional Meeting - Friday, January 15, 9 a.m. - Noon EST

Register at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2021PCMUPDATE/>

The U.P./Northern MI regional meeting program will include:

- Oats and Other Small Grains - Dennis Pennington
- Corn Silage Management - Dr. Manni Singh
- Grass Hay Management - Dr. Kim Cassida
- Dry Bean Production - Scott Bales
- Managing Wildlife Damage - Dr. James DeDecker
- MAEAP program – Holly Moss

(Details on other regional meetings available at on-line registration site)

Credits available (separate credits available for each regional meeting attended):

- Three continuing education units (CEU's) for Certified Crop Advisors
- Three pesticide re-certification (RUP) credits (Private/Commercial Core, or Field Crops 1A)
- Credits are available only to the registered and paid attendee. If participating in a group setting, only the registered person is eligible for credit

Cost:

- \$15 per person including the MSU Weed Guide
- \$15 more for each additional regional meeting attended.

Field Crop Webinar Series 2021

Monday evenings, 7-8pm Eastern Time Feb 15 – March 22, 2020

Registration and fee to be announced. Watch for it in next UP Ag Connections newsletter

The program will include:

2/15/2021	Corn Yield Drivers and Profit Robbers in the Northern U.S. Corn Belt	Joe Lauer, Corn Agronomy Specialist, UW-Madison
2/22/2021	Improving Soybean Production Income	Mike Staton, Soybean Educator, MSU
3/1/2021	Improving Wheat Production Income	Dennis Pennington, Wheat Specialist, MSU
3/8/2021	Weed Control—Effective Options for Tough Weeds at Different Price Points	Christy Sprague and Erin Burns, Weed Management Specialists, MSU
3/15/2021	Crop Fertility Decisions—When Less is More and When Less is Less	Kurt Steinke, Soil Fertility Specialist, and Jon LaPorte, Farm Business Management Educator, MSU
3/22/2021	Grain Price Outlook and Marketing Strategies	Matt Gammans, Agricultural Economist, MSU

- Credits available: One pesticide re-certification (RUP) credits (Private/Commercial Core, or Field Crops 1A) is being applied for each session, a total of 6 credits if each session is attended.

DEMaND

Developing and Educating Managers and New Decision-makers

The Beginning Farmer DEMaND series is a line of publications from Michigan State University Extension. These publications are designed to help beginning farmers learn about financial and business management strategies that will assist them in developing into the next managers and decision-makers on the farm.

There are currently 7 completed publications in the series, with an 8th to be released soon:

MSU Extension

Bulletin #	Topic
E3406	Transitioning from Labor Force to Decision-Maker
E3407	How to Motivate Your Lender to say "YES"
E3408	From Bursting With Ideas to Developing a Plan
E3409	Sharpening the Saw: Keeping Yourself Business Sharp
E3410	Understanding Enterprise Budgets & Economic Profits
E3411	Introduction to Cost of Production and its uses
E3422	Introduction to Zoning and Taxation
TBA	Introduction to Fertilizer Planning and its Costs (Dec 2020 release)

You can download and review these new publications at https://www.canr.msu.edu/farm_management/DEMaND-Series/

Online farm stress training is free and open to the public

This online course will better equip farmers, their families and the agricultural community with tools and resources to help in stressful times.

What is farm stress and how can you help? With the current uncertainties the farming community is facing, it's likely you or a fellow farmer could experience effects of stress. You or someone you know may be struggling with stress, anxiety, depression, burnout, indecision or thoughts of suicide. Would you know what to say or do if you were personally experiencing or confronted with those situations?

Recognizing the high levels of stress affecting America's farmers and ranchers, Michigan State University Extension has partnered with others from the USDA's Cooperative Extension System, Farm Credit, American Farm Bureau Federation and National Farmers Union to create a free online course that is now available and open to the public.

About the course

Rural Resilience: Farm Stress Training is a free online course available at https://opencoursesstore.d2l.com/product?catalog=msu_urmfs_2020 that brings together the knowledge of agricultural conditions and evidence-based approaches in behavioral health to help people recognize the signs of stress and better equip farmers and the agricultural community with tools and resources to help in time of need. This course has been designed to provide an opportunity to interactively learn about farm stress and how to help others manage stress through an online platform that consists of three units: Managing Stress, Communicating with Distressed Farmers, and Suicide Awareness. The engaging content is self-paced and offers a number of voice-over slide presentations, videos and downloadable resources.

By completing the course, you can improve your knowledge and skills to know best approaches in helping farmers and ranchers find their own solutions through communication strategies shared. Additionally, the information will help you recognize and provide assistance to someone who is showing signs of suicidal thoughts. National hotlines, mental health support options and ideas for community-based support are provided.

If you have questions about MSU Extension's farm stress management resources and programs, or if you would like to know more about this training online, please contact Extension educator Eric Karbowski at karbows8@msu.edu or 989-317-4079.

PLEASE NOTE: The information presented in this course is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as professional medical or public health advice, or other advice for any particular issue or subject. If you have any concerns about a particular mental health condition, please seek help from licensed providers.

FREE Upcoming Educational Events

FSMA Produce Safety Grower Trainings - online delivery

Designed to be a comprehensive training for produce growers. Meets FSMA's training requirement. Pre-registration is required.

January 12, 2021

January 19, 2021

February 9, 2021

February 16, 2021

March 9, 2021

March 16, 2021

Produce Safety Supervisor Training - online delivery

Designed specifically for farm food safety supervisors to learn more about the requirements of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and support their farm's compliance with the rule.

This is an online, self-paced course. Pre-registration is required.

January 11-29, 2020

February 8 - 26, 2020

For more information contact:

Landen Tetil

Produce Safety Technician, Marquette County Conservation District

780 Commerce Drive, Suite C, Marquette, MI 49855

Office: (906) 251-3061

<http://www.marquettecd.com/on-farm-produce-safety.html>

Market Report

Choice Steers	\$86-\$101 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$78-\$96 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$53-\$59 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$130-\$190 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$50-\$55 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$50-\$105 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$200-\$300 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1000-\$1300/head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1000-\$1350/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$11.59	\$231.75	\$180-342
Soymeal	\$24.46	\$489.25	\$450-552
Oats	\$13.49	\$269.75	\$239-340
Barley	\$11.93	\$238.50	\$200-314
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Mixed hay, large round bales, 800#, \$20/bale. Call Al (906)647-6697.

FOR SALE: Koyker 565 Loader with 7 ft bucket. Also has skid steer adapter. Fits JD 3000-5000 series tractors. \$2500; **Oliver 13 ft disk** with 18 inch scalloped blades, \$1095. Call Tolfree Farms (908) 884-2351 or email countryj@jamadots.com.

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

Beautiful property in the Upper Michigan, 130 acres In Perkins for sale or pasture for rent for livestock for the 2020 season. Beautiful river running through it. Great for hunting, building or developing, or simple grazing livestock. Land is divided into 9 paddocks with high tensile electric fence and 5 stock watering ponds. Call (906) 359-4825.

FARM FOR SALE: Upper Peninsula Farm with over 1,100 acres, water access, maple syrup production, and much more! **Shady Lane Farms**
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Henry DeGroot (906) 238-4251
hjdegroot@alphacomm.net

FOR SALE: John Deere B. Clean, less than 50 hrs on rebuild. **Allis-Chalmers C.** New paint, runs good. **Hay Hauler.** Hauls up to 10—4x6 round bales, use spear on back, don't have to unhook. Call Terry (906)644-2777.



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<http://www.canr.msu.edu/uprc/farm-business-incubator>

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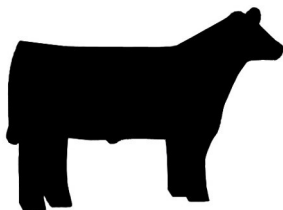
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If you do not wish to receive this publication, please contact Michelle at colema98@msu.edu or (906) 439-5114

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension



Virtual Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update 2020

Wednesday Dec. 16, 2020
8 am – 12:30 pm EST

The Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update is going online for 2020!

The Michigan State University Extension Field Crops Team along with St. Joseph County MSU Extension will host the 2020 Virtual Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update. Normally held at the MSU Livestock Pavilion, we are moving the program to an online format this year due to health considerations with the pandemic. The audience will include farmers, agribusiness representatives, retail sales and service professionals, and private crop consultants. Out-of-state participants are also invited to attend.

Program addresses:

- Review research results and observations from the 2020 crop season
- Weed, insect, and disease control and resistance management for 2021
- Changes to the MSU Weed Control Guide (E-434) for 2021
- Soil fertility and nutrient management considerations for 2021
- Agronomic best practices for corn, soybean and wheat production

Credits available:

- Four continuing education units (CEU's) for Certified Crop Advisors (2.0 PM, 1.5 CM, 0.5 NM)
- Four pesticide re-certification (RUP) credits (Private/Commercial Core, or Field Crops 1A)
 - Credits can only be awarded to individuals registered for the event and participating via their own device (If a group views the program from one location/device, only one person will be eligible for credits)


Cost:

- \$30 (includes the 2021 MSU Weed Control Guide, shipped)
- Weed Guides should be received by registrants by the time of the event if paid registrations are received by **Sunday, December 6**. Registrations received after this date may result in Guides arriving after the event. Mailing to a PO box may also slow shipping.
- Weed Guides will be mailed when payment is received, so payment with a credit card is recommended to ensure timely delivery of the guides.
- Additional copies of the 2021 Weed Guides can be purchased directly from the [MSU Bookstore](#). Note: you will not be able to order extra copies until the bookstore receives them from the printer (scheduled for Dec. 9).

Registration is now open through Dec. 15, 2020

Registrants will receive information on how to join this online event which will be hosted via Zoom. For those who have not used Zoom before, instructions will be sent on how to download the free app to your computer or mobile device. Contact Eric Anderson (andere32@msu.edu or 269-359-0565) with questions.

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/ICPM2020>



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension



UP/Northern Michigan Virtual Pest and Crop Management Update 2021

3 RUP & CCA Credits Available

January 15, 2021 9:00 am-Noon
Cost: \$15.00

(INCLUDES MSU 2021 Weed Control Guide for Field Crops)
TO REGISTER: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2021PCMUPDATE/>

If you need special accommodations please contact Jim Isleib, isleibj@msu.edu 906-250-9609, or Christina Curell, curellc@msu.edu 231-287-8617, by January 10, 2021

Topics and Speakers:

Mixing It Up in Your Hayfield: Dr. Kim Cassida, MSUE Forage and Cover Crop Specialist
Learn how growing grasses and legumes mixed together provides nutritional and environmental advantages but also some unique challenges for haymaking.

Small Grains: Oats, Barley, Triticale and Straw : Dennis Pennington, MSUE Wheat System Specialist
This talk will cover results from oat, barley and triticale variety trial results for grain and forage yields. We will also discuss the pro's, con's and agronomic management recommendations for straw harvest.

Advancement of Northern Michigan Dry Beans: Scott Bales Dry Bean Specialist, MSUE
In this talk we will discuss current and upcoming varieties, nitrogen management, and planting populations pertinent to Northern Michigan.

Successful Corn Silage Production: Dr. Manni Singh, MSUE Agronomy Specialist
Dr. Singh will showcase research and practices that will ensure good silage production in Northern Michigan.

Integrated Wildlife Damage Management in Northern Michigan : Dr. James DeDecker, Director- MSU-UPREC
Dr. James DeDecker will discuss the latest on wildlife crop damage and your options for management in Northern Michigan

MAEAP: Holly Moss, Conservation District MAEAP Technician
Learn how you can make your farming operation are environmentally friendly and aid in the farm becoming more sustainable



The 2021 MSU Field Crops Weed Guides will be available to participants and shipped to you. The guides are paid for by the checkoff dollars from Michigan Wheat, Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, and Michigan Corn.