



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

April 2024

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 28 Issue 4

In this issue:

News and Views

By: Paul Naasz

Page 2

- Bay de Noc Gardening Conference Scheduled for April
- USDA-RMA Insurance Programs

The Growing UP Agricultural Association (GUPAA) was formed in 1978 to help find answers to the many concerns, problems and opportunities of Upper Peninsula agriculture and agricultural research. Since 1984, GUPAA has been honoring an individual that has demonstrated exemplary leadership and service to the UP community by presenting them with the annual Service to Agriculture Award. At this year's Annual Meeting on April 4th, the award was proudly presented to Michelle Coleman by President Jon Haindl.

Page 3

- Exploring Organic Certification & Recording keeping
- Cover Crop Seed Sale

Michelle recently retired from her secretary role at the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center after 25 years of service. In addition to her assigned duties in finance and HR at UPREC, Michelle led the Au Train 4-H club for 25 years, served as Treasurer of the Alger Co. 4-H Council, bookkeeper and core volunteer for the Alger County Fair, Alger County Representative for Feeding America, Chatham Lions Club Trustee, and Secretary of St. Therese Parish Council. Michelle also served as publisher of the UP Ag Connections newsletter and bookkeeper for GUPAA. Congratulations, Michelle, and thank you again for your Outstanding Service to Agriculture.

Page 4

- Planning for the Unexpected

It is the goal of the Growing U.P. Agricultural Association to continue providing leadership and serve as an umbrella group for all of agriculture in the U.P. It has 501(c)3 tax exempt status which has allowed it to receive grants from other organizations for the betterment of U.P. agriculture. Its most recent grant has provided funds for schools to increase agricultural education and demonstration in the classroom. Promoting agricultural education among youth and the public to enhance their understanding of agriculture is one of their highest priorities



Page 5

- Farms for Folks

Page 6

- Advertisers

Page 7

- Advertisers
- Classifieds
- Market Report

Page 8

- UPREC 125th Anniversary Save the Date

GUPAA's organizational structure is comprised of 11 board members that meet quarterly and are elected at the Annual Membership meeting in the spring. Your voice and involvement are crucial to this goal, and the association invites you, if you haven't already, to send in your \$15 annual dues to support GUPAA supporting UP Agriculture. GUPAA, PO Box 168, Chatham, 49816

Bay de Noc Gardening Conference Scheduled for April

April 15 is the registration deadline for the 24rd Annual Bay de Noc Gardening Conference in Escanaba. The event will be held at Bay College on Saturday, April 27. This year the event features sixteen different classes on a variety of yard and garden topics.

Participants will be able to choose to attend four classes at this day-long conference. “Smart Ways to Bring Native Plants Into Your Landscape” will be presented by Rebecca Krans, MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator Crystal Falls. Jennifer Guzzetta, Licensed Veterinary Technician, will cover “Pet-Safe Gardening: How to Select Safe Plants, Common Toxic Plants for Pets & What to Do in Case of Emergency”. “Gardening Through Seasons of Change” and orchids will be topics taught by David Gafner, who has a PhD in Horticulture. Sue Robishaw will discuss gardening without chemical sprays and artificial fertilizers, sharing her over 40 years of experience. Other topics include small fruits, garlic, two sessions on perennials, miniature conifers, maple syrup, micro greens, cooking with fresh produce, composting, invasive species, and succulents.

The cost of the program is \$45.00 per person, which includes morning refreshments, box lunch, and up to four classes. Only pre-paid registrations postmarked by April 15 will be accepted. Brochures can be picked up in the Escanaba area at Tractor Supply, Healthway, Mel’s Lawn and Garden, Wickert Floral, L&M Fleet Supply and Pam’s Petals. In the Gladstone area at Trotter’s Floral, Frame Farm, and Gladstone City Hall. In the Marquette area, brochures are available at Flower Works, and Forsberg Flowers. To receive a printable pdf of the brochure by email, contact DeltaCountyMGA@gmail.com or, on Facebook, private message your email address to the event Facebook page, Bay de Noc Gardening Conference.

For a registration brochure or more information, call, text, or leave a message at 906-398-8145. The program is open to anyone with an interest in gardening, regardless of experience. The program also qualifies for Master Gardener educational credit. This event is sponsored by the Delta County Master Gardener Association, MSU-E Master Gardeners, Bay College, and the Bay de Noc Gardening Association.

USDA-RMA Insurance Programs – Educational Session and Dinner By Frank Wardynski

On May 8, at Jack’s Restaurant in Rapid River starting at 5:00pm EDT, an educational session will be presented to inform farmers of the vast array of USDA insurance programs. Brenda Szach with Michigan Farm Bureau Insurance will discuss Rainfall Index insurance to protect against drought and the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) program. Michigan Farm Bureau Insurance will cover the cost of dinner. Frank Wardynski with Michigan State University will also be present to add input to LRP. The education session will begin with the presentation, followed by dinner and then conclude with a question and answer session.

Reservations are required. Please call the MSUE Office at 906-884-4386.

Exploring Organic - Certification and Recordkeeping Webinar Series

April 5, 2024 - April 19, 2024

Zoom webinar information will be provided upon registration

Contact: Mariel Borgman, mborgm@msu.edu

Are you curious about organic certification? Do you want to hear from other farmers who have gone through the certification process? This webinar series is for you!

Zoom webinar information will be provided after registration.

Is Organic Right for My Farm?

Friday, April 5 - noon to 1pm

Learn from a panel of farmers who are currently certified organic, or have been in the past, about their decisions to certify. The panel will feature a mix of farm types, including livestock and crop production.

Organic Recordkeeping

Friday, April 19 - noon to 1pm

Learn from Joannée DeBruhl about key components of organic recordkeeping and how to be prepared for an organic inspection. Example recordkeeping systems and templates will be shared with participants.

[Exploring Organic - Certification and Recordkeeping Webinar Series - Michigan Transition to Organic Partnership Program \(msu.edu\)](https://www.msu.edu/extension/organic)

Cover Crop Seed For Sale



Organic VNS Buckwheat - \$0.75/lb (97.5% germ)

Organic VNS Field Peas - \$0.75/lb (99.5% germ)

- Cleaned on-farm via fanning mill
 - Available in 40 lb bags only
- Pickup at MSU-UPREC, no shipping or delivery
 - Call (906) 439-5114 to order



Planning for the Unexpected

By: Michelle Sweeten

Knowing your context is important on your farm. But what happens when your context changes unexpectedly? No matter how well you plan, make goals, or manage your farm you will experience unexpected weather events. In the summer of 2023, many areas of Michigan had mild to severe drought followed by a wetter fall. Now, our winter has been very mild with low precipitation. Currently, many areas of the state are abnormally dry with several areas in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula experiencing moderate-severe drought conditions. How can we manage our crops and animals to reduce the side effects of these and future events?

Focusing on resilience and soil health mitigates the difficulties caused by drought, rain deluges, floods, or other catastrophic weather events. How can we determine if our fields or pastures have the resilience to hold up to disastrous weather events? Start with observations in the following areas:

1. How often is the soil disturbed? Even minimal tillage systems have negative effects on soil microbiology which in turn affects the soil's ability to infiltrate and water holding capacity. While not all systems will eliminate tillage, how can the negative effects be minimized? Can cover crops be incorporated to help rebuild soil structure?
2. How long each year do you have living roots in the soil? Keeping a living root in the soil as long as possible allows root exudates to renew the soil aggregates. According to the NRCS, soil aggregates are groups of soil particles that bind to each other more strongly than to adjacent particles. Aggregate stability refers to the ability of soil aggregates to resist disintegration when disrupted. Even perennial pastures can have poor aggregation if animals are allowed to be continuously grazing the plants which affects the root health of the plants.
3. Do you have a diversity of plants, microorganisms, wildlife, and livestock? The diversity above the soil has a direct impact on the diversity below the soil. While we tend to think of soil organisms, we can see such as earthworms, there are more microbes in one teaspoon of healthy soil than people on the Earth. Included in these microbes are bacteria, fungi, protozoans, algae, and nematodes. These organisms are important for nutrient cycling, decomposing organic matter, providing nitrogen through fixation to help grow plants, detoxifying harmful chemicals (toxins), suppressing disease organisms, and producing other products that might stimulate plant growth. Diversity can be encouraged by reducing tillage, planting cover crops, and moving livestock quickly through paddocks leaving more residue which promotes future growth as well as diversity.
4. How long each year is the soil covered by living plants or residues? Living plants and residues throughout the year buffer the soil against temperature swings. Soil temperature directly affects plant growth. Most soil organisms function best at an optimum soil temperature. Soil temperature impacts nitrification and influences soil moisture content, aeration, and availability of plant nutrients. Can you lift the mower when making hay or move livestock more quickly through paddocks to leave more residue in the fields during growing and non-growing seasons? Can you plant cover crops that will die during the winter and leave residue on the field until it is time to plant the next crop?

Keeping records of your observations allows you to track how well your farm is infiltrating and holding onto water. How much water do you want to keep on your farm? Are your infiltration rates improving? Are you building soil aggregates? Many of the changes mentioned can be done in small increments as small on-farm trials. Management practices must fit your environment, context, and your farm goals. How can you change and adapt to the changing environment and improve your farming?



FARMS FOR FOLKS

A PROGRAM SPONSORED BY



Farms For Folks addresses food insecurity in Alger County by delivering weekly bags of local food to individuals and families in need.

If you:

- Live anywhere in Alger County **and**
- Do not have access to a car **or**
- Are a senior citizen, veteran or disabled **or**
- Most times do not have enough money to buy groceries **or**
- Are a Medicaid or SSDI recipient **or**
- Need to frequent the food pantry often to make ends meet **or**
- Have no access to the farmers market closest to you ...

Please call or text 906 250-4825 to sign up for this FREE program.

SIGN UP IS APRIL 1-30 ONLY *sorry no exceptions*

- Food deliveries every other Friday, starting in mid June to mid September
- Volunteers will deliver fresh, locally grown veggies to your home for FREE
- All food products come from your local farmers
- This year, we are hoping to serve 48 homes.
- Names will be pulled from a hat.
- Delivery area includes **ALL** of Alger County.

Want to be a Volunteer this year (there are perks),

Want to be a Generous Community Member,

or need more information?

Call or text 906 250-4825

FFF is made possible because of your generous community members.



CHIPPEWA COUNTY FARM BUREAU®

President: Bruce Berkompas

Secretary: Mary Robertson

906-635-7250



S&R
Angus

Weston, WI
(715) 573-4924
www.srangus.com

Service age bulls, open females and show prospects for sale private treaty. Bulls are fertility tested and bred for calving ease



At the heart of growing America

100 years of Ag Experience

Loans, ag taxes, farm records, consulting

1801 N. Lincoln Road, Suite A, Escanaba, MI

(906) 786-4487 Fax: (906) 786-3450

Johnson Brothers Livestock

3740 18th Rd. Escanaba, MI

Buying or Hauling Cattle

St. Louis—Mondays, Gaylord—Wednesdays

Call Gary Johnson

Office (906) 786-4878 Gary Cell (906) 235-0099

Steve Cell (906) 399-2858



*Working to build
a vibrant U.P. food
economy since 1971*

Open Daily, 8 to 9 · Everyone Welcome
906-225-0671 · 502 W Washington St
www.marquettefoodcoop

REGISTERED MAINE ANJOU AND ANGUS

CLAY KNOLL FARMS

OPEN & BRED HEIFERS AND BREEDING AGE
BULLS AVAILABLE

BREEDING CATTLE TO IMPACT THE
PRESENT AND INFLUENCE THE FUTURE.

BREEDING STOCK—BULLS
SHOW PROSPECTS—STEERS

DUANE & LISA SIMPKINS & SONS

DUANE CELL 989-329-6141

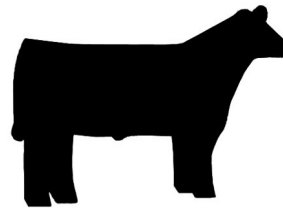
LISA CELL 989-578-0328

GARY & JAN SIMPKINS

HOME 989-426-8185

CELL 989-329-4668

GLADWIN, MI



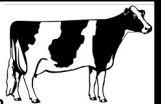
Ray's Feed Mill

Ration & Crop
Consultants
Feed • Seed • Fertilizer



(800) 832-1822 or (906) 466-2231
Bark River & Norway

Rosebush Sale Barn, Inc.



Sale 1st Wednesday of each month

Baby heifer & bull calves sell every Tuesday at noon

Over 40 years experience in Dairy Business

If you're thinking about selling your herd, or a portion of it,
call us! We can help!

Hay & Straw available

Robert Filhart (989) 330-6005

www.rosebushsalebarn.com



Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association

WAUKON, IOWA
Feeder Sales Schedule

• 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

(563) 568-4501

www.equitycoop.com

United

Producers, Inc.

Farmer owned. Farmer values.

St. Louis Sale every Monday
Collection point in Escanaba
Call for more information (989) 681-2191



Skidders

Pickford, MI
(906) 647-5655 or
(877) 647-2500

Kubota, AGCO, Massey-Ferguson, New Idea, Hesston,
Gehl, Bush Hog, H&S, and Kverneland



Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association

*Collecting Cattle on Tuesdays at the
Larry Linsmeier Farm north of Menominee, MI*

(906) 863-8123

www.equitycoop.com

SMC

Stephenson Marketing Cooperative

We want to be your first choice!
Agricultural Services & Supplies

Stephenson, MI

(800) 445-6167

Powers, MI

(800) 962-3008

Marlette Livestock Auction

Monthly Dairy & Feeder Cattle Auctions

Sale Date April 13, 2024

Featuring Dairy Cattle, Cow/Calf Pairs & Bred Brood Cows,
Breeder Bulls, & Feeder Steers & Heifers

Hay & Straw Auction - Every Monday @ 12:00 PM

1000+ Small Squares & 150+ Rounds/Large Squares Weekly

Livestock Auction - Every Monday @ 1:00 PM

Including Calves, Sheep & Goats, Feeders, Hogs, Bulls, Beef, &
Butcher Cows

6381 Euclid St., Marlette, MI 48453

Robert Filhart, Owner (989)330-6005

Haley Filhart, Owner (989)430-2055

Classifieds

For Sale: Red or Black Wagyu Bulls, Call Paul at MSU 906-439-5114
Ext. 2

For Sale: Alfalfa Baleage, Contact Jim Dalgord 906-644-2107

For Sale: Red Angus Bull, 1 1/2 year old, Great bloodline, good
disposition, 1832#. Call Don Nault 906-786-3951 Or Cell 906-398-
9865

Wanted: Pasture for 25-35 cow calf pairs for the summer of 2024
in the Eastern UP. Will consider a custom grazing arrangement as
well. Call Ben (989) 370-3570.

Straw for Sale: Small squares or 4x5 Large round bales. Call Paul
at MSU 906-439-5114 Ext. 2

FOR SALE: Inline Bale Wrapper, 2015 Anderson NWX-660. Honda
gas engine, self propelled, remote control. Stored inside last 2
years. \$24,000. Also, 1000 gallon **pull behind Sprayer** with 60 ft
boom. \$1,000. Both in Hancock. Call Nate (906)370-1876.

FOR SALE: Hay, mixed round bales, 700# stored inside. Also small
square bales of straw. Call Jim Myers (906)399-1649 or (906) 466-
2672.

FOR SALE: small square bales of straw and small squares of first
crop hay. Call Marenger's Farm (906)384-6587.

FOR SALE: Mixed Hay round bales, 700#, \$20. Call Alan or Karen
Raynard @ (906) 647-6697, Pickford.

Market Report

Choice Steers	\$160-\$191 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$115-\$177 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$56-\$64 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$200-\$285 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$100-\$132 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$300-\$610 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$200-\$325 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows top \$2300/head

Grade Holstein bred heifers top \$2300/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$15.19	\$303.75	\$220-510
Soymeal	\$27.99	\$559.75	\$440-655
Oats	\$18.20	\$364.00	\$319-416
Barley	\$15.08	\$301.50	\$240-386
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

Michigan State University
Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center
P.O. Box 168, E3774 University Drive
Chatham, MI 49816

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #77
SAULT STE MARIE, MI
49783



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Serving the Upper Peninsula Agricultural Industry

Michigan State University Extension is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status.

U.P. Ag Connections appreciates the support of this newsletter by our advertisers, however in no way does this imply endorsement of any specific products or services.

If you do not wish to receive this publication, please contact Rene Sanderson at sande638@msu.edu or (906) 439-5114

**UPREC 125th
Anniversary
Celebration**

August 10, 2024

MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center
E3774 University Drive, Chatham

QUESTIONS?
EMAIL SANDE638@MSU.EDU
OR CALL (906) 439-5114

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | AgBioResearch | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension