



# U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

July 2024

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 28 Issue 7

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## Michigan State University Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center 125th Anniversary Celebration

Michigan State University's Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center (MSU-UPREC) will be celebrating its 125th anniversary with an open house. The event will take place **Saturday, August 10th, 2024 from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Eastern Time) at the UPREC South Farm, E3774 University Dr., Chatham, MI 49816**. This free event is open to the public and will include educational programming on the history and impact of UPREC, a lunch featuring local Ag products, and tours of both the UPREC North and South Farms.

Michigan State University's Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center (MSU-UPREC) was established in 1899 at Chatham, Michigan to conduct, "experiments pertaining to agriculture and horticulture...beneficial to the agricultural interests of the Upper Peninsula." For 125 years, UPREC has spearheaded research investigating the breadth of UP crops and livestock, and delivered educational programming serving generations of UP farmers and community members.

The event will include the opportunity to tour both the South Farm and North Farm sites to highlight research projects related to UPREC's grain quality lab, small grains, distilling corn, alfalfa and small grain forage, beef cattle, organic vegetables, and climate change. As this is the 125th anniversary celebration, there will also be information and stories about the history of the facility and the area, as well perspectives on what's next for UPREC.

# 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**AUGUST 10 2024**  
**11 AM-3 PM**  
**EASTERN TIME**

MSU UP Research & Extension Center

# 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**AUGUST 10 2024**

**11 AM-3 PM  
EASTERN TIME**

## EVENT AGENDA

**11:00 CHECK IN**

**11:30 PROGRAM**

**12:00 LUNCH**

**1:00 FARM TOURS**

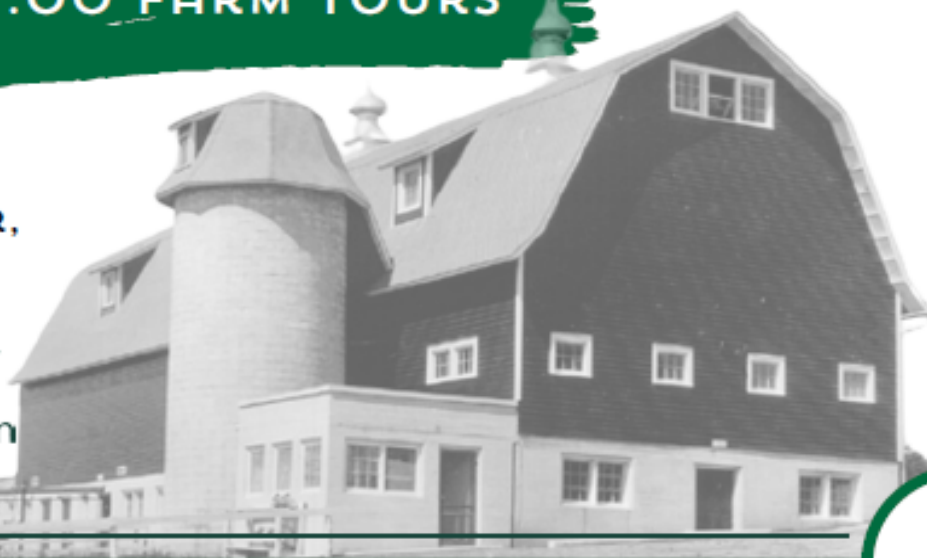
### LOCATION

**E3774 UNIVERSITY DR,  
CHATHAM, MI 49816**



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Greetings Gardeners,

Are you interested in the next MSU Extension Foundations of Gardening (FOG) course? FOG is the horticulture course for both those wishing to apply to our MSU Extension Master Gardener Program® and those seeking horticultural training for personal reasons.

Registration for the Foundations of Gardening (FOG) is open July 10, 2024- August 24, 2024. Registration is available on the FOG website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/foundations-of-gardening> . Classes begin September 10, 2024, with a practice session.

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## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) - Current Recommendations for Beef Producers

By Frank Wardynski

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, now referred to as bovine influenza A (BIA) in cattle by the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, has infected dairy cattle across the country. Avian influenza virus Type A H5N1 does not cause high mortality and morbidity in cattle like it does in birds. It is still unknown how the disease most likely spreads, but it is known that the virus is in the milk of infected cows. While there are no known BIA infections reported in beef cattle at the time of writing this article, the purpose of this article is to make beef producers aware of the potential for infection and management practices they should use to help prevent infection. Any disease contagious to dairy cattle can also be contracted by beef cattle. Beef producers should know the potential risks, symptoms of the disease, and the importance of following biosecurity protocols.

The first symptoms in dairy cattle have been reduced feed intake and milk production. Secondary visual signs include fatigue, dehydration, tacky or loose manure, and elevated body temperature. Some of these signs could be confused with common respiratory disease. Producers are encouraged to consult with their veterinarian if they suspect cattle are infected with BIA. Suspected cattle can be tested at no testing cost to the producer; however, positive cattle will be reported. Also, producers should be aware that BIA has infected humans and should take necessary precautions to help prevent disease contraction to themselves and workers.

The most important management decision beef producers can implement is to use biosecurity measures to stop the disease from coming onto the farm. Beef Quality Assurance biosecurity guidelines should be implemented. Avoid bringing outside animals onto the farm or at least know the source of where they are coming from. Animals should only be transported in trailers that have been cleaned and disinfected from the last cattle hauled.

Keep new animals isolated from the current livestock. With BIA it appears that the incubation time is approximately 14 days, therefore, the quarantine time should be 21 days. Limit visitor access to the farm and livestock and know they are not coming from an infected farm. Keep footwear and clothing clean and designated for the farm. Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development recommends that a log be kept of all vehicles and people that enter and exit the farm, as well as a place and way to wash and disinfect vehicles and boots.

Michigan State University Extension Beef Team wants to ensure that producers understand the potential risks associated with BIA and that they develop and implement biosecurity protocols. This disease in cattle is brand new to the United States with many unknown factors. Producers should be aware of the issue and continue to look for updated information.

As an added piece of information, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service has tested 30 samples of ground beef from states that have dairy cows test positive for BIA. All the samples tested negative and indicate the meat supply is safe.

## Flood Management Plan By Frank Wardynski

The title of this article is a bit tongue in cheek. I wrote many articles in the spring and early summer talking about drought management. And within less than three weeks, particularly here in the western UP we went from a severe drought designation to getting stuck in hay fields. I would say the drought is officially over.

The excess rainfall has brought a whole new set of problems. Many crops didn't get planted on time or at all. Crop planting intentions changed on many of the acres switching from corn to sorghum-sudan grass. Soils were saturated during first crop harvest of haylage leaving many ruts in the fields. In many locations beef hay harvest was delayed into mid and late July.

First, I want to talk about the corn. There's some really good-looking corn out there but much of it that is not going to reach maturity. Having that much corn that is not going to reach maturity is going to create challenges. Much of it will be salvaged as corn silage. For a long time it will be too wet to harvest and then in all likelihood it will freeze and then get too dry very fast. Could create problems of poor quality feed.

It wasn't long ago that we had a wet summer like this through June and into July that it was nearly impossible to make dry hay. I thought I was going to be OK on my home farm because I was going to make balage. But I got stuck in the field trying to get the first load out. Then I switched to making dry hay, but the ground was so wet it wouldn't dry well. I made a lot of hay that was too wet. Consequently, I had fertility problems in the cows and they didn't do well that winter. I received countless calls at the office regarding similar problems of low fertility, weak born calves and unthrifty animals.

Poor quality feed can create nightmarish health problems for your animals. Do everything you can to make good feed. If you have problem feeds, be strategic in how you feed that them. Be observant of foul odors, visual signs of mold, caramelization, and dust. If you think you have problems make sure your test your feeds both for nutrient quality and mycotoxins.

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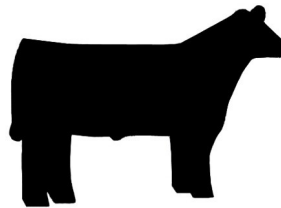
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### Classifieds

**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: 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	\$170-\$203 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$130-\$179 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$63-\$71 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$180-\$236 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$125-\$160 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$500-\$650 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$200-\$330 per 100 lbs.

#### Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows top \$2200/head

Grade Holstein bred heifers top \$2150/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			

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**UPREC 125<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Celebration**

**August 10, 2024**

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

**QUESTIONS?  
EMAIL [SANDE638@MSU.EDU](mailto:SANDE638@MSU.EDU)  
OR CALL (906) 439-5114**

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The graphic is a rectangular box with a decorative border of green arrows pointing outwards. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and regular fonts. The date "August 10, 2024" is in a bold, sans-serif font. The contact information is also in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the logos for Michigan State University, AgBioResearch, and Michigan State University Extension are displayed.