



MSU Extension programs are open to all

## MSU Extension & Services

NRCS Civil Rights Diversity Day Training  
*'Small Diversified Farms and Local Food'*

- Jim Isleib, MSUE U.P. Crop Production Educator

This presentation was delivered as part of an in-service civil rights training for Upper Peninsula USDA Natural Resource and Conservation Service and other public agencies on September 18, 2012.

# MSU Extension & Services

## ■ MSU Extension Mission:

*Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.*



The MSU Extension Mission Statement provides a clear idea of what MSU Extension is all about.

We try to help people improve their lives.

We do this by offering an educational process.

The educational process applies science-based knowledge to issues, needs and opportunities that are important to people.

## MSU Extension & Services

- What does MSUE offer U.P. small/diversified farms?



MSU Extension programs are available to farms of all types and sizes throughout the U.P. We offer programs and information through a variety of avenues.

## What does MSUE offer?

- One-on-one visits / consultations
  - New MSUE policy allows 4 hrs free consultation annually, then fee to help support costs
  - Phone/internet contacts welcome, no charge
  - The era of the 'county agent' dropping by to check in are pretty much over



*Alvy Moore as Hank Kimball in "Green Acres"*

One-on-one visits to consult with farmers and others involved in agriculture are available. However, finances limit the amount of travel and time educators can spend with individuals.

Phone and internet communications are encouraged and free of charge.

In the past, 'county agents' made more frequent drop-in visits on farmers. There are a couple reasons why this has changed. 1) There are a lot fewer 'county agents' (agricultural educators now cover multiple counties and have specific areas of expertise) and 2) funding for MSU Extension limits the amount of travel by educators

## What does MSUE offer?

- Local, regional & state-wide educational meetings and programs
  - U.P. Agriculture for Tomorrow conference, Escanaba, March
  - U.P. Beginning Farmer webinar series
  - Local pasturewalks and field days
  - Northern MI Small Farmers conference, January, Grayling
  - Ag Expo, MSU, July
  - ANR Week, MSU, March

MSU Extension offers a variety of educational meetings and programs at the local, regional and state-wide level. A few examples are shown here. These are opportunities to learn in a group setting.

## What does MSUE offer?

### ■ Plant diagnostic services

– Plant ID - \$10



– Plant health analysis - \$20 (\$25 for bacterial ID)



– Insect ID – common ID n/c, keyout - \$10



– Nematode Sample - \$25 for basic soil/root analysis, extra fees for additional analysis

### ■ Veterinary diagnostics – through local vet

MSU Extension also offers, or can direct farmers of all types and sizes to services offered by MSU.

These include:

Soil testing

Plant diagnostic services

Veterinary diagnostics (through you local vet)

Business planning and marketing assistance

## What does MSUE offer?

- MSU Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - Innovation counselors statewide – Michelle Walk serving U.P.
  - Business planning
  - MI Market Maker
  - Multi-level assistance – first level to assess basic idea is n/c

The MSU Product Center offers different levels of assistance to people exploring new and innovative ag businesses. These range from free initial consultation to in-depth market analysis and business planning, which involve a fee.



## What does MSUE offer?

- Access to 'local' specialized educators, regional and state specialists



### U.P. Ag Team

- Michelle Walk, Sustaining Community Prosperity/Tourism & Community Food Systems Educator
- Jim Isleib, Crop Production Educator
- Warren Schauer, Business Management Educator
- Frank Wardynski, Ruminant Educator
- Doo-Hong Min, Forage Specialist



The staff above conduct agriculture and community food system programs in the Upper Peninsula. Their contact information is included in the factsheet handout.

## What does MSUE offer?

- U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter
  - Monthly publication reaching 1100+
  - Supported by advertisers
  - No subscription fee
  - Email subscription encouraged
  - Archives on MSU U.P. Research Center website



Another good information source for U.P. famers of all types is the monthly U.P. Ag Connections newsletter published by MSU Extension in Ontonagon County. You can receive the newsletter free of charge, though the mail or via internet.

## What does MSUE offer?

- Toll-free phone # for county offices and 'gardening hotline'

1-888-678-3464



In addition to local staff and services, MSU Extension offers a toll-free phone number to reach your county MSU Extension office. There is also a toll-free 'gardening hotline', staffed by Master Gardener volunteers. The hotline is used most frequently during the growing season, and may not be staffed in the off-season.

## What does MSUE offer?

- Many useful websites (examples):
  - MSU Extension <http://msue.anr.msu.edu>
    - Several ag categories with RSS feed available
  - Gardening in Michigan <http://migarden.msu.edu/>
  - MSU Hoophouse <http://hoophouse.msu.edu>
  - MSU Organic Farming Exchange  
[www.michiganorganic.msu.edu](http://www.michiganorganic.msu.edu)
  - MSU Center for Regional Food Systems  
<http://www.foodsystems.msu.edu>
  - National Sustainable Agricultural Information Service (ATTRA) – *not MSU, but very good*
  - <https://attra.ncat.org/index.php>

Above are several useful websites. More are listed on the factsheet handout.



*Questions?  
Comments?*

Thank you.