



UP Ag Connections

725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953

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NEWS & VIEWS

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

I would like to start by asking the Ag community in helping me congratulate Pat Wehner for receiving the Outstanding Agriculture Educator Award. The award was presented to Pat during the Michigan State University Ag and Natural Resources Week Luncheon in East Lansing. Pat has been the agri-science educator and FFA advisor at Stephenson High School for 27 years. Pat has been dedicated to working with students to be active participants at state conventions and conferences. Consequently her students have received many awards.

Stephenson has the only FFA Chapter in the U.P. It's a shame that as the agriculture industry has grown across the entire country and is one of the country's largest industries, that our school systems doesn't understand the importance of teaching agriculture and farming to our students. Fifteen percent of the U.S. work force works in the agriculture industry. Less than five percent of our population lives on farms. That simple math tells me that many people work in the Ag industry that didn't grow up on a farm and probably don't have an agriculture background.

I personally believe that agriculture is one of the best examples to use for teaching and I'll bet Mrs. Wehner would agree. At home when I'm trying to teach my kids we always use agriculture examples. I use agriculture, mostly because it's in my wheelhouse but also because it fits so many real life examples. Whether it is biological science, chemical science, math, communications, economics, the list continues; agriculture provides a great teaching tool. Pat has demonstrated this with students competing in academic decathlons, and even leadership finalists at the state level.

We have heard before that people are so far removed from the farm that they don't even know where their food comes from. Some schools are considering starting school gardens and hoop houses in an effort to produce fresh produce for the students. I question the economics of that concept, but maybe it can work. And if it does, and the school decision makers are smart, they'll use the system as a student teaching tool.

At the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center, they will be developing the north farm as a similar teaching unit to students. That's a concept the Growing UP Ag Association had been working on to ensure the longevity of the station. This concept will help teach future farmers that may or may not have farm experience about the production process and what goes into the production of food. Congratulations Pat and thanks for using agriculture to teach students these life lessons now for 27 years.

~Frank

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MARKET REPORT (4/21/14)

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Market Ready Prices

Choice Steers	\$130-\$155	per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$110-\$140	per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$79-\$86	per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$160-\$175	per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$80-\$105	per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$130-\$320	per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$150-\$200	per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$2000 - 2800	per head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1700 - 2500	per head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$13.10	\$262.00	\$200-324
Soymeal	\$23.65	\$473.00	\$386-560
Oats	\$19.00	\$380.00	\$320-440
Barley	\$14.10	\$282.00	\$220-344

Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots

Wanted & For Sale Listings

Personal ads will be removed monthly. We reserve the right to edit your ad. Free ads must be no more than 110 spaces. Please respect the space requirements. You can always purchase an ad if more space is required. Please call or email your ad no later than the 15th of each month. Call the Ontonagon County MSU Extension office at 906-884-4386 or email msue66@msu.edu.

Hay for Sale: 1st cut Timothy and Alfalfa small square and large round bales. 906-384-6351 or 906-384-6587

For Sale—Registered Polled Hereford Bull 18 months old — Semen tested—can deliver. Bull is located in Garden, MI Kevin Klink 906-644-7140

For Sale—Rye straw & hay for bedding. Call 906-774-4608

For Sale—Dairy Goat \$200.00, first time freshner/she's in milk (Nubian). Meat goats for sale \$1.75/lb. Call 906-355-2310

For Sale: Yearling Angus bulls AI sired by SAV Bismark and Sitz Jackson, will have been tested for breeding soundness. Priced from \$2,500 to \$3,000. Dan at (906)-249-1507 or Thad at (906) 249-1069

For Sale—4X5 Net Wrapped Bales Clover Mix approximately 200 Bales for Sale located in Garden, MI Call 906-644-2383

Special Events at the MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham

—SAVE THE DATES!

May 29 & 30, 2014 Starts at 9:00 am EDT each day.

Hoop house Raising. Staff at the Station will be constructing hoop houses. All are invited to participate in the process of hoop house construction from the ground up. Come prepared to work as you learn.

July 29, 2014

Station walk through – MSU Staff will be on hand to discuss various projects being conducted at the station. Look for more info in the June AG Connect.

Questions for those considering “direct marketing” of farm products

U-pick and farm stand sales can be great for some people, but make sure this marketing approach will fit your personality.

By **Jim Isleib**, Michigan State University Extension

Selling directly to customers can be a great way to improve net profits for produce, fruits, meat animals and other farm products. But a good deal of careful consideration should be given to the details before plunging ahead. One of the most important is dealing with people, your customers.

Nine questions to ask yourself before you get started.

1. Are you a people person?
2. Where are you at right now with your ag business? Producing and marketing need to be addressed separately. Start where you find yourself right now. Be realistic.
3. What kind of market are you aiming for? Niche, Local, Larger?
4. Who are you going to sell to?
5. Are you assuming you have a market for your product, or have you proved that your market exists?
6. Do you have a quality product?
7. Do you have a business plan?
8. Do you know your cost of production? How will you calculate your price?
9. Are you comfortable with the concept of “the customer is always right?”

Other comments:

Get involved with an association specific to your enterprise. The North American Farm Direct Marketing Association is a good contact. The farm needs to pay for itself. Don't use your other income to subsidize farm expenses.

Custom Grazing—15+ years Dairy Experience—Breeding available.
Call 906-362-6862

Small Livestock and Poultry Swap and Sale
Next to Erickson Feed, Seed & Pet Supply in
Hurontown.

Saturday, May 3rd 8:00 am to Noon
Questions call 906-281-4765 or 906-281-2574

Dairy Farmers Looking for Forages to Replace Alfalfa

Many dairy farms across the Midwest are short of alfalfa. Finding an acceptable alternative forage may be a critical factor contributing to the success of dairy operations this next year.

BY: Frank Wardynski, Ruminant Extension Educator

Alfalfa forage compliments corn silage in dairy cow lactation rations better than most any other forage available in the United States. Dairy producers across the Midwest may have difficulties harvesting adequate quantities of high quality alfalfa forage. Some alfalfa has shown signs of winter kill and corn continues to replace alfalfa acres. Additionally the 2013/14 winter necessitated feeding more feed than usual. Consequently, dairy producers may look for alternative forages to ensure adequate forage yields to feed cattle through the next year.

During the spring of 2013, some dairy farmers were harvesting winter wheat to feed to dairy cattle. Wheat silage is best used in dry cow and heifer rations, especially if it has matured into the milk or dough stages. Wheat silage contains more fiber and less protein than alfalfa. Some producers have been including boot stage wheat silage into high producing lactation rations without sacrificing milk production in replacement of alfalfa while eliminating fiber sources such as straw from the ration.

Various other forage cropping options are available to dairy producers attempting to increase forage inventory. Producers in locations that have experienced excessive rainfall and delayed row crop planting, can plant sorghum sudangrass until about July 15. Sorghum sudangrass is available in brown midrib (BMR) varieties and is more comparable to corn silage than alfalfa.

There are also opportunities to double crop forage plantings behind winter wheat grain harvest this summer. Michigan State University Extension recommends planting single species crops for high producing lactating cows. Several options are available to plant after wheat. Oats can be planted and harvested as silage with similar feeding results and recommendations as wheat silage.

Another option is to plant a forage type soybean. Research utilizing soybeans as forage is very limited. Forage soybean feed analysis indicate protein and fiber values to be nearly comparable to alfalfa: protein 18-20%, NDF 38-46%, and ADF 28-34%. The soybeans in this study were planted with an objective to harvest as a high quality forage. Soybeans that are weather damaged or frozen before reaching maturity will not produce high quality forage. Soybeans should be harvested just before the R7 stage; occurs when one pod of the main stem contains mature seeds. Another concern is the limited list of pesticides approved for use on soybeans destined to be harvested for livestock feed. As with all cropping options, pesticide application must be approved to be used on crops destined for livestock feed.

Planting a combination of peas and oats can produce high quality feed. Due to the potential for crop stand variability, it is not recommended as a feed for lactating cows. Crop stand variability can create a challenge to deliver consistent diets to the cows. Peas and oats can be an excellent feed for dry cows and heifers, allowing producers to save alfalfa for lactating cows.

Given the conditions seen across much of the Midwest, demand for high quality alfalfa is high. Finding methods to harvest more forage that fit into the feeding regime of a dairy farm could be the most important economic decision that producers will face this year. For more information regarding harvesting forages to increase feed supply on dairy farms, contact Frank Wardynski, Ruminant Extension Educator with Michigan State University at wardynsk@anr.msu.edu or 906-884-4386.

Energy efficiency grant opportunity for farms and small businesses now available

Michigan Energy Office has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) and has matching grants available for energy efficiency projects for farms and small business in Michigan. Here is an overview of what is required for a submission.

Posted on **April 18, 2014** by **Tom Dudek**, Michigan State University Extension

A total of \$150,000 is available from the Michigan Energy Office in matching grants for energy efficiency projects to retrofit existing buildings on all types of farms including greenhouses or small businesses in Michigan according to Michigan State University Extension. The main purpose behind this effort is to encourage cost effective energy upgrades that reduce operating costs for the owner, support local jobs and free up capital to re-invest in these businesses over the long term. Grants can range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per application. All applicants must provide a minimum cash match equal to 100 percent of their grant's final request. Cash match's in excess of the minimum is highly encouraged.

To be eligible to apply, farms or small businesses must employ fewer than 100 people, own the facility that they are requesting the project for and must be located in Michigan. To apply, use the application form cited in the Request for Proposals (RFP). Projects need to show that they will improve energy efficiency by 20 percent or more and promote economic development and job creation as a result of the energy savings that are gained from the project.

Working with a MSU trained energy auditor to conduct an "energy audit" on the project intended for submission for funding would be helpful. Also, look at additional incentives to carry out the project from electric and natural gas utility providers through energy optimization programs. "Michigan Saves" is another source of funds as they offer loans to finance energy efficiency projects. Applicants need to look at all sources of available funds when developing any energy efficiency project.

The deadline for submitting proposals is Aug. 31, 2014, or until grant funds are exhausted.

For further information, contact Terri Novak, Michigan Energy Office, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, at 517-930-3170 or novakt@michigan.org.

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May 2014 - FSA News

Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment.

NAP – Notice of Loss – Has Weather Effected Your Crops?

Policy holders are reminded that they must submit a “*Notice of Loss*” (FSA-576) within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent. If you have noticed that your crop might be light due to frosts, cold weather, or excessive moisture contact your FSA office so that they have the opportunity to take a look at the crop. For those of you that have filed a notice of loss, you need to keep the office informed of your harvest conditions. If you are not going to harvest all or part of a block, an appraisal will need to be completed on that block. This appraisal will be used in calculating your loss claim

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) Offers Farm Bill Website and Online Overview of Farm Bill Programs

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit our Farm Bill website at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print our recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What’s in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

For more information on FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Prepares to Accept MAL and LDP Requests; Sets 2014 MAL Loan Rates

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin accepting requests for marketing assistance loans (MALs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) for eligible 2014 commodities.

MALs and LDPs for the 2014 crop year become available to eligible producers beginning with harvest/shearing season and extending through a specific commodity’s final loan availability date. Sugar commodity loans for the 2014 crop will be available to sugar processors beginning Oct. 1, 2014.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool, mohair and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

The 2014 Farm Bill also establishes payment limitations per individual or entity not to exceed \$125,000 annually on certain commodities for the following program benefits: price loss coverage payments, agriculture risk coverage payments, marketing loan gains (MLGs) and LDPs. These payment limitations do not apply to MAL loan disbursements.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions were modified by the 2014 Farm Bill, which states that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP.

National and county loans rates for 2014 crops are posted on the FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

For more information, please visit a nearby USDA Service Center or FSA’s website www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Announces the Extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract Program for 2014

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced the extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program which protects dairy farmers against income loss through Sept. 1, 2014, or until a new Margin Protection Program for dairy producers (MPP) is operational. Contracts for eligible producers enrolled in MILC on or before Sept. 30, 2013, are automatically extended until the termination date of the MILC program. Dairy operations with approved MILC contracts will continue to receive monthly payments if a payment rate is in effect.

MILC compensates enrolled dairy producers when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt), after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations. MILC payments are calculated each month using the latest milk price and feed cost, just as in the 2008 Farm Bill. The payment rate for October 2013 through January 2014 marketings is zero. Payment rates during the months after January 2014 until the termination of the MILC program will be determined as the appropriate data becomes available.

Producers who want to select a different production start month must visit their local FSA office between April 14, 2014, and May 30, 2014. FSA will provide producers with information on program requirements, updates and sign-ups as the information becomes available.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Great Interest Rates: Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Remember: these loans are now available for Hay/ Forage Storage as well as traditional grain storage!

April Interest Rates:

- 2.125 percent for 7 years with a loan of \$100,000 or less
- 2.750 percent for 10 years with a loan of \$100,000 - \$250,000
- 2.875 percent for 12 years with a loan of \$250,000 - \$500,000

Contact your local FSA county office for May’s interest rates.

An inside look at how meat and poultry plants clean everything

An entire shift is dedicated each day to sanitation in meat and poultry plants.

Posted on **April 10, 2014** by **Jeannine Schwehofer**, Michigan State University Extension

Cleaning your kitchen is no easy task but an important one. Cleaning and sanitizing a meat plant is even more involved! That is the analogy that John Butts, Vice President of Land O'Frost uses when he invites people to see the process first hand in one of their plants in a [video](#). The video is part of the [American Meat Institute's glass walls project](#). Tremendous efforts go into sanitizing meat and poultry processing facilities every day. Every piece of equipment and parts are thoroughly washed, rinsed with extremely hot water, scrubbed with soap, rinsed again and sanitized after each day of processing. Walls, floors, and drains are also scrubbed and sanitized daily. The purpose of such intensive sanitation is to provide a clean environment to make safe and wholesome meat and poultry products for consumers to enjoy. Worker safety is also an important part of the sanitation process. All equipment must be unplugged and a lockout, which does not allow the equipment to be turned on, must be applied before any cleaning can begin. There are many moving parts and pieces to much of the equipment used and it is important to properly protect workers from potential harm.

After establishments clean and sanitize their processing facilities, employees will look at all the areas again to make sure they did not miss anything. This would be similar to someone coming into your home and using a white glove to see how well you clean things. Testing of equipment and food contact surfaces for invisible microbes is also done regularly. Before the next production shift can begin, inspectors from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service are given the opportunity to thoroughly look at the cleanliness of equipment and processing areas. If something is found that doesn't meet the strict standards, the process of cleaning it starts all over again.

There are additional training materials available regarding sanitation for meat establishments. One that [Michigan State University Extension](#) specialist Sarah Wells helped with is a [video](#) produced by [AFPD](#) through a grant funded by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. This training video is useful for retail establishments that have a deli or meat processing area.

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Corn stover: When does removal make sense?

Crop residue removal decisions should be field specific.

Posted on **April 17, 2014** by **Mark Seamon**, Michigan State University Extension

Demand for corn stover is growing in the United States. Two industries have identified this secondary product as a valuable feedstock, creating market opportunities for growers. One is the cattle feed industry, which is using corn stover as a low cost winter forage. Another, still in the early stages of commercialization, is the cellulosic ethanol industry. Three Midwest cellulosic ethanol production facilities are slated to come online in 2014, their locations were chosen mostly due to the availability of corn stover in their part of the country.

If these markets expand to create similar demand for corn stover in Michigan, how will growers decide if stover harvest is a good fit for their farm? This decision requires the evaluation of several factors including soil organic matter content, slope of the land, soil type, tillage system and soil fertility levels. Let's take a look at each of these factors individually.

Soil organic matter content. If organic matter levels are less than 2 percent, crop residue should be kept in place to help maintain and build healthy soil.

Slope of the land. Crop residue is valuable in preventing soil erosion. If the slope of a field causes concern for soil erosion from water flow, then crop residue should be left in place to slow the movement of water over the soil. Highly erodible land classification can help to determine specific areas of concern. Erosion prediction tools like RUSLE2 can be used to fine-tune residue needed to reduce erosion.

Soil type. Sandy soils are often low in soil organic matter and have limited water-holding capacity. Soil organic matter builds structure by providing the glue that binds soil particles together. This increases soil tilth, porosity and water-holding capacity. Only excess stover should be removed from sandy soils. The [Lucas SOM Calculator](#) can help you determine how much stover to retain.

Tillage system. The large volume of stover produced by a high-yielding corn crop can sometimes be a detriment to the following crop by slowing warming and drying of soil in the spring. Physical placement of seed through the residue and adequate seed-to-soil contact can be especially challenging in minimum or no-till systems. Stover removal can improve these conditions and reduce the need for additional tillage operations to manage residue.

Soil fertility levels. Corn stover contains significant quantities of plant nutrients, especially phosphorus (P) (8.2 pounds per ton) and potassium (K) (32 pounds per ton). If a corn field has low soil test levels of P or K, addition of nutrients in the form of fertilizer or manure will be needed to replace those removed by stover harvest. Conversely, soils with very high fertility levels may benefit from removal of excess nutrients, which could also allow for additional manure applications in the future.

Crop productivity is a critical consideration when deciding whether or not to harvest corn stover. Some growers will be able to remove stover and maintain productivity while others should leave stover in place to ensure successful future crops. Site-specific data should allow corn growers to make this decision within fields with variability and prevent degradation of soil health in sensitive areas.

[Michigan State University Extension](#) is conducting on-farm research throughout Michigan on practical issues of corn stover harvest and use. Results from this project will be shared widely as they are compiled.

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MSU offers 5 guidelines for managing 2014 spring horse pastures

EAST LANSING, MI -- Careful management in the spring will increase the grazing potential of your pasture.

We may be off to a slow start for spring, but following some essential pasture management guidelines will help ensure a nutritious pasture for horses during the grazing season.

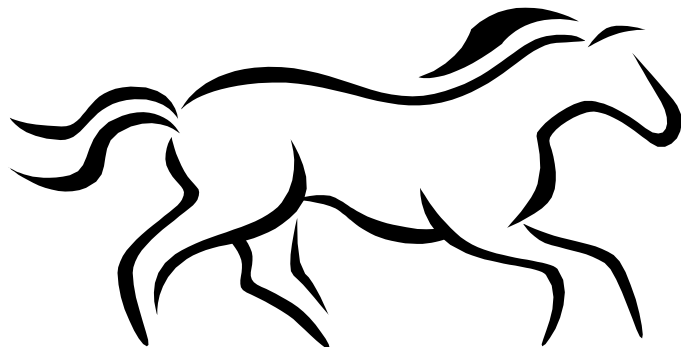
1. Keep horses off of early pastures. This spring promises to be wet with a delayed growing season. Delicate early growth combined with wet sod makes a slick and messy turnout for our heavy hooved horses. The best thing you can do for your pasture is to keep your horses off until the grasses reach at least an 8 inch stand and the soil provides a dry solid footing. A sacrifice lot supplied with hay, water and a mineral block will provide some sunshine, nutrition and exercise for your horse without destroying the grazing potential of your pasture. For more information on sacrifice lots, read the Michigan State University Extension News article Utilizing a sacrifice/exercise lot for your horse.

2. Frost seed low quality areas in your pasture. March is the month to frost seed in Michigan, but the long winter is providing a few extra days to get it done in the northern part of the state. While the southern counties are thawing out, many parts of mid and northern Michigan still have snow on the ground. Frost seeding involves overseeding pastures while the ground is still frozen and letting the thawing action of the ground draw the seeds into the soil bed. For more information on frost seeding, read Frost Seeding Guidelines.

3. Improve your pasture with lime or a fertilizer application. Early spring is the perfect time to improve your pasture. Collecting a soil sample can help you evaluate your soil's nutritional needs for the season. If your soil is acid or lacks essential minerals, early spring application of the correct rate of fertilizer or lime will boost your pasture's productivity and you will see an increased production of quality forage and decreased weed contamination. For more information on soil samples, read the MSU Extension News article Successful nutrient management begins with soil sampling.

4. Slowly introduce horses to spring pastures. Spring pastures are high in moisture and nutrients and can be a shock to the Michigan horse's digestive system after a long winter of eating hay. Horses should be introduced to pasture slowly over several weeks to reacquaint their digestive system with green grass. Horses that are overweight, have foundered, or have high blood insulin levels should have pasture access strictly controlled during the entire grazing season. For more information, read the MSU Extension News article Managing horses on spring pastures.

5. Prepare for a dry summer. While it is wet now with concerns of flooding on our weather radar, we need to be prepared for the possibility of drought this summer. Good spring pasture management will go a long way to helping prolong the grazing season. In addition, mowing weeds, dragging manure piles and resting pastures to prevent overgrazing during the summer months is paramount to long-term pasture productivity. Rotational grazing may also be a great strategy to increase your horse pasture's longevity and nutritional quality.



Do steers or heifers produce better beef?

Quality characteristics, tenderness and value of beef are similar from steers and heifers.

Posted on **April 10, 2014** by **Jeannine Schwehofer**,
Michigan State University Extension and Dan Buskirk Michigan
State University Department of Animal Science

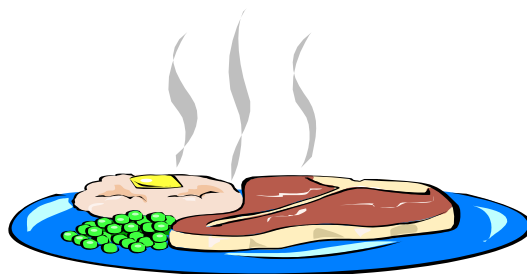
Cattle prices are at a record high and so are retail beef prices. Current prices for heifers and steers is nearly identical. For the week ending April 7, 2014, live heifers averaged \$149.80 and steers averaged \$149.70 per hundredweight nationally according to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Marketing Service. Retail beef prices do not differentiate between steer and heifer carcasses. The average overall retail Choice beef price for Feb. 2014 was \$5.58 per pound.

Very small differences are noted between beef from steers and heifers after looking at large populations of data. Michigan State University Extension summarized studies for carcass traits and instrumental tenderness that compared beef from heifers and steers. According to the most recent National Beef Quality Audit, heifer carcasses had slightly more marbling than steer carcasses, but USDA quality grade was not significantly different.

Instrumental tenderness was similar in the ribeye muscle from steers and heifers after 14 days of aging according to a research project at Colorado State University. In the same project, if aging times were extended to 21 days, beef from heifers was more tender than beef from steers, but after 28 days of aging, there was no difference. In a comparison of ten studies reviewed by the National Beef Cattlemen's Association, beef from heifers appeared to become tender more slowly than beef from steers. But overall differences in instrumental tenderness are negligible with proper aging times in place.

Instrumental tenderness, most often determined by Warner-Bratzler Shear Force, measures the force needed to shear, perpendicular to the muscle fibers, a half-inch diameter core of meat taken from a one-inch thick steak. An average shear force (measured in pounds or kilograms) from six to eight cores is calculated to measure tenderness from one steak. The most common muscle to conduct instrumental tenderness is the *longissimus* muscle which is the main muscle in a ribeye.

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Meetings & Events Calendar

May

May 3 Small Animal Swap in Hurontown, next to Erickson Feed, Seed & Pet Supply call 906-281-4765 or 906-281-2574 with questions.
May 11 Mother's Day

May 26 Memorial Day
May 29-30 9:00 am Hoophouse Raising in Chatham, MI

June

June 9 1 - 4 p.m. ET, Affordable Care Act Workshop, Peter White Library, Community Rm, 217 N. Front St., Marquette, MI 49855

July

July 28 Forage Day on UP Farm, Brule River Farm Jon and Donna Ahlberg, Iron River, MI
July 26 Station Walk through at the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham
July 29 Brock Farms, Steve Brock, Daggett, MI

August

August 2 Love Farms, Bob and Tina Love, Rudyard

September dates to be determined for Barron Farms and Frank Wadynski Farm

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