



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

January 2016

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 19 Issue 11

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Reflection and Change

Coming into the first of a New Year provides an opportune time to take a reflective look upon our performance of the past year and make decisions about new practices to implement in the New Year. This can be true for all aspects of our life including our farm businesses. Change is inevitable but we do not have to make changes blindly, we can utilize records of past performance and decision-making tools to make change a process we embrace with knowledge of how we can use it to our benefit. Agriculture is an industry that has seen much change in recent past and there is no indication that it will be any different in the coming years.

Maintaining accurate and quality records is an important part of being able to make changes that are meaningful and impactful to your farm. Record keeping systems can vary from basic spreadsheets to more elaborate programs developed for farm records. Important data to record include incomes, expenses, and associated quantities for both, production values including yields, and quantities for inputs. Collecting these data is not always at the forefront of our mind but it is important to do so and can provide powerful information for the improving the management of our operations.

With your records you are able to look at your farm business as a whole or look at the pieces that make it up. A business analysis is a great way to look at your farm business as a whole. This is a combination of your accounting and inventory records and gives you a look into the financial health of your operation. This is an opportunity to see what you are doing really well and analyze some areas that might need improvement.

Another useful tool to analyze farm business changes is partial budgeting. Partial budgeting is a way of analyzing a potential change by including only the resources on the farm that will be impacted. You could use partial budgeting for whether or not to buy a new piece of equipment or change a management practice. Partial budgeting helps in evaluating the financial implications of making a change or not. This is a process you may already using but not in a formal format. A partial budget template can be found on the MSU Extension Farm Information Resource Management website.

For more information on these topics your local Educator can always direct you to the right contacts or contact Katelyn Thompson at thomp737@msu.edu. We are available to assist you in your decision making by providing you with research based information and look forward to the year ahead!

Katelyn Thompson

U.P. Farm Business Management Educator, MSU Extension

More meetings planned in the Eastern and Central U.P. to explain revised FSA programs

Additional meetings are being offered for farmers to learn more about the new Farm Bill programs that relate to their farms. These meetings will focus on the new CRP -Grasslands program which took the place of the old grasslands program. FSA staff will describe the program changes, including increase payments, and take questions. NRCS grazing plans will also be discussed. MSU Results from the low-input hay improvement on-farm project on the Berkompas farm in Rudyard will be presented by MSU Extension.

Other topics will be touched on, including NAP (noninsured crop disaster assistance program – catastrophe coverage insurance when private insurance is not available), LIP (livestock indemnity program – livestock disaster payments due to weather), and a little bit about agricultural risk coverage (ARC) and price loss coverage (PLC).

The following meetings are scheduled:

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

12noon – 1:30pm (soup lunch included)

Engadine United Methodist Church

W13970 Park Ave.

Engadine, MI 49827

Presenters: Kay Hillock-Vining, FSA and Jim Isleib, MSU Extension

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

6:30 – 8:00pm

Bruce Township Hall

3156 E. 12 Mile Rd.

Dafter, MI 49724

Presenters: Kay Hillock-Vining, FSA and Jim Isleib, MSU Extension

Thursday, January 14, 2016

1-3pm eastern time

MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center,

E3774 University Drive, Chatham, MI 49816

Presenters: Mitch Towne, FSA, Misa Cady, NRCS, and Jim Isleib, MSU Extension

Please let us know you are attending by calling the Alger County MSU Extension office at 906-387-2530 or email at isleibj@anr.msu.edu. Additional meetings are being planned for the western UP. Look for details in next month's UP Ag Connections newsletter, or contact Jim Isleib, MSU Extension at 906-387-2530 or isleibj@anr.msu.edu.

2015 Michigan Corn Performance Trial data now available online!

<http://www.varietytrials.msu.edu/>

The Michigan State University Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences conduct hybrid corn trials each year in cooperation with Michigan State University AgBioResearch stations, seed corn companies, and farmers to

determine yield and quality performance. Trial sites include three locations in the Upper Peninsula!



WAIT!!

Before you move those moos out of state...!

By Renee Coyer, D.V.M., Thompson Veterinary Clinic

- Contact your Veterinarian at least 14 days prior to expected departure date, as you will need him/her to issue a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), previously known as a 'health certificate'.
- Make sure the chute you and your Veterinarian will be using is safe, user friendly, and minimally stressful for the animals.
- Contact the state of destination—they may require testing (TB, Brucellosis, etc.) for entry.
- Collect ALL information for the primary premises, shipper and final destination including name, address, and phone number and get it to your Veterinarian as soon as possible to expedite your paperwork.
- Ensure EVERY animal has a RFID (radio frequency identification) tag; if possible submit this list to your Veterinarian prior to the day of your Farm visit.
- Be aware of the general health of those animals being moved.

V.O.I.C.E.:

Veterinarians Organizing Information for Client Education

My mission with this short blurb is to present educational information to assist YOU! This may be a general FYI, helpful suggestions, or a caution statement.

Learn how to get started with Vegetable Gardening

Michigan State University Extension Offers Webinar

By Rebecca Krans, MSU Extension

Do you enjoy eating fresh vegetables? Would you like to learn the basic steps in starting and maintaining a vegetable garden? **Register now for Michigan State University Extension's on-line webinar series 'Smart Vegetable Gardening 101'**. Along with learning about the steps involved in getting started, you will become more familiar with the Smart Gardening initiative that promotes more earth friendly and sustainable practices for the home gardener. Practices that help create smart soils, smart plants, and smart lawns.

This course is designed as an introduction to all aspects of vegetable gardening. Home gardeners and anyone interested in starting to grow vegetables should participate. This webinar class starts on Tuesday, January 19th and runs for six weeks from 6-7 pm EST (5-6 pm CST) on Tuesdays through Feb.23rd. All sessions will be recorded, so if you are unable to attend a live session, you can view the recording. Class discussions will be incorporated via on-line chat pods. The course is only \$30 which must be paid in advance. There is also an optional CD you can purchase for \$37; the CD contains the power points and all of the educational resources, but it is not a video.

You can participate in this series from the comfort of your home or office computer. All that is required is high speed internet and Zoom. After you register and before the first class session, you will receive the Zoom link for the class.

The direct link to the registration site is:

<http://events.anr.msu.edu/SmartVegetable101Webinar2016/>

If you would prefer to register by mail, send your name, address, phone number, and email address, along with payment to: Veggies 101, Tuscola County—MSU Extension, 362 Green St., Caro, MI 48723-1998. Payment and registration must be received by Jan. 8th for the early registration fee of \$30. After Jan. 8th and through Jan. 15th, registration is \$40. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at Michigan State University Extension – Iron County, 906-875-0606, kransr@anr.msu.edu or Hal Hudson at Michigan State University Extension – Tuscola County at hudsonh@anr.msu.edu or 989-672-3870.

For more information on a wide variety of Smart Gardening topics, visit the Gardening in Michigan website at www.migarden.msu.edu or contact MSU's toll-free garden hotline at 1-888-678-3464.

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Tickets now on sale!
Dr. Temple Grandin to speak in
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Sunday January 24th, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
 Quattro Hotel, 229 Great Northern Rd.,
 Sault Ste. Marie, ON

The Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN) together with the Algoma Cattlemen's Association and the Algoma Autism Foundation are pleased to announce a presentation to Algoma farmers featuring Dr. Temple Grandin on January 24, 2016.

Temple will discuss how good animal handling practices improves productivity and animal welfare. Topics will cover cattle behavior principles during handling and the importance of measuring animal handling.

Dr. Temple Grandin is an American professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University and a leading expert in the

field of cattle handling, pen design, and autism education. Dr. Grandin has spoken around the world, sharing insights into the world of animal behavior, evaluation and consultation of correct animal handling, and is an advocate for the proper respect of animals for cattle management. Dr. Grandin's designs for her innovative stockyards, lairages, corrals, races, chutes, and loading ramps are currently in use in over half of the beef plants in the United States. She has also developed an objective scoring system for assessing the handling of pigs and cattle at meat plants.

Tickets are now available online at
www.templegrandincattle.eventbrite.ca

For more information, please contact David Thompson (RAIN) at 705-942-7927 x3024 or dthompson@ssmic.com.



Stay connected with local food news and the U.P. Food Exchange through the online newsletter, the Plowshare.

The Plowshare can be viewed at this link:

<http://us10.campaign-archive2.com/?u=4a85cc80caec676c2ecb73d4e&id=ba36c5c9bd>

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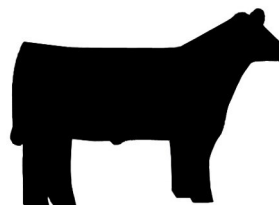
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Menominee County Young Farmer Open House

Menominee County Young Farmers is a combined effort of Michigan State University Extension and Menominee County Farm Bureau to bring area young farmers and agriculturalists together for networking, learning and developing leadership skills. The group is inclusive of those that are actively farming on their own, with family, work on a farm or work in the agricultural industries. A strong network between farmers, farm employees and ag-businesses is important to maintain the strength of the agriculture industry in communities all over.

Menominee County Young Farmers will be hosting an Open House on January 11, 2016, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the Menominee County Annex building, S904 US Hwy 41, Stephenson, MI. This event is a chance for young farmers to come and network with others and pick up some useful information from local groups that will be in attendance.



Market Report

Choice Steers	\$93-\$115 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$83-\$108 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$45-\$68 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$125-\$160 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$55-\$65 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$125-\$230 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$150-\$200 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1900 - \$2700/head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$2000 - \$2700/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$9.71	\$194.25	\$150-270
Soymeal	\$21.33	\$426.50	\$355-556
Oats	\$9.51	\$190.25	\$160-236
Barley	\$9.90	\$198.00	\$165-242
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

Young Farmer Open House

January 11th

6-9 pm

Menominee County Annex

Building, Stephenson

Groups that will be ready to answer questions and provide information include; [Farm Service Agency](#), [Menominee County Conservation District](#), [Michigan State University Extension](#) and Menominee County Farm Bureau. Menominee County Young Farmers is looking forward to this event and to future events!

If you have any questions about the event, contact Katelyn Thompson at the Menominee County MSU Extension officer at (906) 753-2209. The next Menominee County Young Farmer meeting will be a Dinner and Discussion held on February 18th, 2016, 7 pm at the Menominee County Annex building.



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Beef Cow-calf Production Meeting

The MSUE beef team will be presenting beef meetings across the UP. Extension educators Frank Wardynski and Katelyn Thompson will cover topics related to herd health and preconditioning calves to include one vs two shot vaccination programs, vaccinating the cow herd, deworming practices, value of preconditioning, weaning management. Sessions will start at 6:00 EST and last until about 8:30.

February 2	Bay College in Escanaba
February 3	Rudyard Township Hall
February 4	Twillies in Bruce Crossing



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New beginning farmers series offered on-line by MSU Extension:

People who are exploring new farm businesses will benefit from participating in the MSU Extension 2016 Beginning Farmer Webinar Series. From January – April 2016, MSU Extension will offer 23 two-hour



evening programs that provide valuable start-up information on general and more specific farming topics. For program details and registration, visit <http://events.anr.msu.edu/BegFmrWeb2016/>.

January and February webinar topics include:

- Jan. 18 Growing and selling malting barley
- Jan. 20 Tomato diseases, insects and disorders
- Jan. 25 Climate change and agriculture: What do MI famers think?
- Jan. 27 The basics of raising pigs
- Feb. 1 An introduction to edible chestnut production
- Feb. 3 The Food Safety Modernization Act: What you need to do
- Feb. 8 Growing raspberries in high tunnels
- Feb. 10 New crops for new customers
- Feb. 15 Native bees for pollination
- Feb. 17 Integrated pest management resources at MSU
- Feb. 24 Wheat agronomy

Ag for Tomorrow Conference – Save the Date

Michigan State University Extension Upper Peninsula Ag team is announcing the date of this year's annual Ag for Tomorrow. The conference will be conducted at Bay College on March 8, 9:15am – 4:05pm. Topics in the areas of crop and forage production, livestock production, and beginning farmer will be covered.

Diane Hanson will be the key note speaker. Diane and her husband Dennis operate Hanson Seed Farm in Cornell, MI. Diane serves on the Michigan Ag Commission and has long been an active Farm Bureau member serving as a strong voice for agriculture in general and ag in the UP specifically.

Look for the conference brochure in the next Ag Connections Newsletter.

Clare County Livestock Auctions 2016 Feeder Cattle Sales

All cattle weighed at sale time. Accepting cattle on Wednesday all day. Wednesday cattle will be fed and watered!

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Review session and exams for state certified pesticide applicators in Stephenson

Date: February 3, 2016

Location: Menominee County MSU Extension Office, Stephenson, MI

Review session: 8:30am – 12:30pm Central Time

State exams: 1:00 pm Central Time

This 4-hour review is intended to help prepare for the State of Michigan commercial and private pesticide applicator certification exams. 4 re-certification credits toward renewal of current State of Michigan Pesticide Applicator Certification is available for private applicators and commercial applicator 'core' category. The program will consist of a review of example exam questions from the study manuals. It is strongly suggested that participants acquire copies of the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual and study it thoroughly before the exam. If seeking commercial certification or re-certification, the study manual for the category(s) desired should also be acquired and studied. This program will cover only 'core' manual material, no commercial categories.

A State of Michigan official will offer exam opportunity after the review is completed. If you plan to take an exam, register at www.michigan.gov/pestexam and be prepared to pay \$50 for the

private exam and \$75 for the commercial exam (including any number of categories) by check payable to "State of Michigan". A waiver from the State of Michigan is offered to honorably discharged veterans seeking private pesticide applicator certification. You must provide a copy of your veteran's federal form DD-214 that indicates honorable discharge status along with your application.

Lunch will not be provided. A 1/2 hour break is scheduled between the review and the exams for participants to have lunch. If taking an exam, bring your own lunch, or plan for a very quick lunch break.

A \$10 fee, payable at the door, is required for the review. If paying by check, make check out to "Michigan State University Extension". This fee covers program costs and refreshments. (Note: This is a separate fee from the State of Michigan exam fee).

The core manual and other study materials can be purchased on-line at http://shop.msu.edu/category_s/463.htm or ordered through your local county MSU Extension office.

For more information, contact Jim Isleib, MSU Extension, at 906-387-2530 or isleibj@anr.msu.edu. Additional information regarding registration for State of Michigan pesticide applicator exams and additional training programs for pesticide applicators is available on the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development website at http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-69_16988_35289--,00.html

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Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center

Taking stock of the Michigan malting barley industry

Farmers are urged to complete a brief survey to share their experiences with malting barley production

Traditional [agriculture statistics](#) are of little help when trying to determine the state of malting barley production in Michigan. The reason for this inaccurate view is that all barley – both that produced for feed and malting – is categorized as one crop. Data from 2014 showed 7,000 acres of barley harvested, but estimates of how much of that barley was grown for the production of malt is much less – likely only a few hundred.

In order to gain a better understanding of the state of malting barley production in Michigan, the [Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center](#) (UPREC) is coordinating a survey of in-state farmers and malt houses. This work, also supported by the [Michigan Brewers Guild](#), will provide a snapshot of the level of production and serve as a baseline for the growing industry.

As interest grows for malting barley, [MSU AgBioResearch](#) and [MSU Extension](#) researchers at UPREC are striving to address needs including variety suitability, disease and pest management, and fertility recommendations. Taking stock in the production in-state will better inform both short and long-term research strategies.

We appreciate your feedback. Follow the link below to respond to the survey:

[2015 Michigan Malting Barley Production Survey](#)



Issues identification in the central U.P.

At Michigan State University Extension, our goal is to listen to our community members and focus our research and educational programs that matter most to us. The issue identification process is an important way to concentrate future research of MSU faculty and staff. This process will be repeated in 14 areas of the state. Data will be collected from all of the sites and used in the development our long-range plan of work.

Your voice and opinions are very important to us and we want to hear them at this series of meetings. Please check the meeting schedule below and mark your calendar with the location that will work best for you.

**Central Upper Peninsula (Schoolcraft, Alger, Delta, Marquette, Dickinson & Menominee Counties)
Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Meeting location options:

- Delta County MSUE Office, 2840 College Avenue, Escanaba
- Marquette County MSUE Office, 184 U.S. Hwy. 41, Negaunee
- MSU U.P. Research & Extension Center, E3774 University Drive, Chatham
- Menominee County MSUE Office, S904 Hwy. 41, Stephenson

Please RSVP by calling Mary Ellen Pond at (906) 387-2530 or e-mail johns290@anr.msu.edu regarding the session you plan to attend.

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Precision feeding the beef herd: Nutrient analysis of feedstuffs

Beef cow-calf producers can balance rations to precisely meet the nutrient requirements of cows. However, they need to the nutritive value of rations feedstuffs first.

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Ruminant Extension Educator

Beef producers across the country have taken advantage of precision agriculture management practices to more [efficiently feed cows](#). Mechanical technologies are available in the form of large bale slicers, mixers and scales that allow cattlemen to mix rations to perfectly meet the nutrient requirements of the cow herd. In order to accurately balance rations nutrient content of the feeds must be know.

Some producers will utilize published book values of many of the available feedstuffs. However, these values can be poor estimates due to the broad array of environmental factors associated with feed quality, especially for forages. Forages make up the large majority of rations fed to beef cows. The nutrient content of forages can have a broad range due to many factors associated with harvest. Weather, maturity, species content, and harvest methods are some of the factors that lead to nutrient content variation.

Producers that want to balance rations with precision need to sample forages and submit for nutrient analysis. Forages should be sampled and analyzed frequently through the feeding period. Producers should be consistent in the types and quantities of forage they are feeding and sample every time there is a change of the forage type, such as forages harvested from different fields or other factor that would impact quality. Know the near exact nutrient content allows producers to feed rations that meet the cow's nutrient requirements without over or under feeding. Over feeding is wasteful while under feeding results in decreased performance.

Through the use of near infrared reflectance spectroscopy or NIR analysis feed samples can be accurately analyzed for a broad array of nutrient components and a relatively inexpensive cost. Feed samples should be analyzed for dry matter, protein, with some measure of energy using total digestible nutrients or net energy. Many labs provide a large array of analysis for little more cost to also include mineral content, fiber digestibility, relative feed value and relative forage quality. Educators and specialists from Michigan State University recommend balancing rations for protein and energy content.

For more information regarding the testing of feeds for nutrient analysis, contact Frank Wardynski, Ruminant Extension Educator with Michigan State University at wardynsk@anr.msu.edu or 906-884-4386.

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Open House
March 5, 2016
10 am—2 pm
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Ag For Tomorrow Conference

Tuesday, March 8th

Bay College Escanaba

Registration details can be found in February's
Ag Connection Newsletter

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Calendar of Events

January 11	Young Farmer Open House (6-9 pm CST), Menominee County Extension Office, Stephenson
January 12	FSA Programs meeting, Engadine United Methodist Church (soup lunch 12—1:30 pm EST)
January 12	FSA Programs meeting, Bruce Township Hall, Dafter (6:30-8 pm EST)
January 13	MSU Extension Issues Identification Meeting; Delta, Marquette, or Menominee Extension Offices or UPREC at Chatham (5:30-7:30 pm EST)
January 14	FSA Programs meeting, MSU UPREC, Chatham (1—3 pm EST)
January 24	Temple Grandin presentation, Sault Ste Marie, ON (2:30 pm)
January 29-30	North Michigan Small Farm Conference, Acme, Michigan
February 2	Beef cow-calf production meeting, Bay College, Escanaba (6 pm EST)
February 3	Beef cow-calf production meeting, Rudyard Township Hall (6 pm EST)
February 3	Pesticide applicator training session and exams, Menominee Co. Extension, Stephenson
February 4	Beef cow-calf production meeting, Twillies, Bruce Crossing (6 pm EST)
February 18	Young Farmer Meeting, Menominee County
March 3	Energy Conservation Program, Stephenson
March 8	Ag For Tomorrow Conference, Bay College, Escanaba
March 15	Key Success Factors for Dairy Farm Profitability, Rudyard
March 16-17	Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference, Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, Michigan
March 22	Pesticide applicator training session and exams, Escanaba
Spring	UPREC consignment auction fundraiser