

MSU Extension Crops Newsletter for Northwest Michigan

Dear Northwest Michigan Crop Farmer,

February 2016

We are already a month into this year called 2016 and are seeing some surprises for agriculture and some concerns as well. The major concern comes as no surprise and that is the lower crop grain prices. If you look at my budget sheets enclosed in this newsletter, my projections for profits with canola, corn and soybeans do not appear to be favorable at this time. Excessive flooding in the spring, dry summer weather or some other major event in the corn belt can change all of this by the time fall harvest rolls around but as it stands right now the large world supply of grain is causing depressed profit expectations for these crops. Wheat and alfalfa hay prospects look better for the current year but there is also concern that those supplies could grow as well if another good harvest occurs in 2016.

The surprises for 2016 are good news as fuel prices continue to fall to levels no one anticipated and fertilizers prices have fallen as much as 40% from last year. These lower input costs soften the impact of the lower grain prices and are making heavy crop users of fuel and fertilizer like alfalfa hay look even more favorable. The big impacts from this point on will be how many acres are finally planted this spring and what the harvest will be next fall. MSU Extension has a number of educational programs offered this winter to help your cropping operations trend toward the profitable side. Those events are enclosed in this newsletter. Hope to see you at some of them!

Jerry Lindquist,



MSU Extension Grazing & Field Crop Educator

Inside this issue:

Staff Change at the Osceola MSU Extension Office	2
No Pesticide Cert. Exam offered in Cadillac Area 2016	2
MSU Forage Program Offered Around the State Including Cadillac	3
Northern Michigan Crop Budgets for 2016	4
Highland Ag Conference Information	5-7
Great Lakes Forage and Grazing Conference	8
Michigan Wheat Yields 2015	9-11



Jerry L. Lindquist
MSU Extension Grazing
and Field Crop Educator
lindquis@anr.msu.edu

**OSCEOLA COUNTY
MSU EXTENSION**
301 West Upton
Reed City, MI 49677
231-832-6139

www.msue.msu.edu/osceola
e-mail - msue67@msu.edu

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Children, Youth and Families /4-H
Community and
Economic Development
Family Nutrition Program

*MSU is an affirmative –action,
equal-opportunity employer.*

*Michigan State University
Extension 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 and
family status or veteran sta-
tus.*

*Michigan State University,
U.S. Department of
Agriculture and counties
cooperating.*



Staff Change at the Osceola MSU Extension Office

In the past this newsletter was sent to you by our office secretary Tonia Hartline and maybe you had the opportunity to talk to her pleasant voice on the phone. After almost ten years of serving our office Tonia has taken a promotion in the Osceola County system and now is the Deputy (Assistant) Treasurer for the County. We thank Tonia for her great service and wish her well!

We are happy to announce we have a new secretary in place. Her name is Carrolin Ruppert and we feel confident you will find her a joy to work with as well. Carrolin brings a great background of working with and understanding rural families from her previous work and especially her volunteer efforts of serving as a 4-H Leader for almost 20 years. Watch for future newsletters that I produce being emailed from Carrolin's email address. If you filter out emails from un-known sources do not block emails from Carrolin in the future. Her email address is: ruppert@anr.msu.edu

Jerry Lindquist

No Pesticide Certification Exam to Be Offered In Cadillac Area in 2016

Because of staff vacancies in the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development system (MDARD) Pesticide Certification Exams are not being offered locally in the Cadillac, MI. area this winter. The exams still can be taken at MDARD Regional offices in Grand Rapids or Traverse City by scheduling at www.michigan.gov/pestexam. The exam is \$50 for private applicators (farmers) and \$75 for commercial applicators. Study books are still available at MSU Extension Offices. Anyone wishing to purchase restricted use pesticides must pass the restricted use pesticide exam every three years, or pass it once and then receive educational credits to advance their knowledge over the course of the next three years. We hope the offering of a local exam will return in future years but for this winter, if you have been notified by MDARD that your certification must be renewed, plan to take it at one of the Regional MDARD Offices or in Lansing.

MSU Forage Program Offered Around the State Including Cadillac

Registration Information

On-site registration starts
at 9:30 a.m.

Program starts at 10:00 a.m.

Lunch is included.

Registration Cost:

\$30.00/person



MSU Forage Team speakers:

Dr. Kim Cassida

Michigan State University Forage Specialist, conducts forage research and extension programming in varying areas to meet the needs of the forage grower, and the animal industries, such as dairy, beef, horse and small ruminants that rely on forages as the backbone of their nutritional profile.

Phil Kaatz

Michigan State University Extension Educator focuses on forage research and demonstration for primarily alfalfa, grass, & corn silage to provide statewide coverage and programming to all forage growers on a variety of topics.

Jerry Lindquist

Michigan State University Extension Educator focusing on forage grazing research and demonstration to provide statewide coverage and programming for grazing related topics for the livestock industries.

To Register online go to:

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

Or contact:

Tina House
Lapeer County MSU Extension
1800 Imlay City Rd.
Lapeer, MI 48446
810-667-0341

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the appropriate MSUE office using the phone numbers listed on this flyer one week prior to the date of the program to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.

"Focus On Forages"
Winter Meetings



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

"FOCUS ON FORAGES"

6 Regional Meetings

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

DATES & LOCATIONS

February 8, 2016

Isabella County Commission on Aging
2200 S. Lincoln Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Meeting room B

February 9, 2016

Franklin Inn
1070 E. Huron Ave.
Bad Axe, MI 48413

February 16, 2016

Wexford MSU Extension
401 N. Lake St., Suite 400
Cadillac, MI 49601

February 17, 2016

Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer
3055 M-21
St Johns, MI 48879

February 25, 2016

Hillsdale County MSU Extension
20 Care Dr.
Hillsdale, MI 49242

March 2, 2016

Allegan County Human Services
3255 I22nd Ave #300
Allegan, MI 49010
The Zimmerman room

Topics for discussion:

Each location will have the option of several of these topics.

- Low lignin alfalfa
- Management of Roundup Ready alfalfa
- Management of alfalfa/grass mixtures
- Michigan Forage Variety Test Report summary (current and long term)
- Birdsfoot trefoil management
- Keeping EVERYONE safe around bunk silos
- Michigan alfalfa sulfur survey summary
- Forage quality of cover crops for hay and silage
- Fertility & Forage Cost of Production

All forage producers of alfalfa, grass, and corn silage, custom harvesters, agribusiness professionals, and consultants are invited to hear and see what we've learned during the past several years from the Michigan State University Forage Team.

Dr. Kim Cassida, MSU Forage Specialist, and the rest of the Forage Team are eager to share the most current forage research and demonstration results.

RUP CCA Credits Pending

*Meeting is worth two pesticide recertification credits
Michigan State University Extension

Contact Tina House
Lapeer MSU Extension
1800 Imlay City Rd.
Suite 1
Lapeer, MI 48446

Phone: 810-667-0341

Fax: 810-667-0355

Email: houset@msu.edu

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension 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. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the hosting MSU Extension office one week in advance to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.

Northern MI Crop Budgets For 2016

	Corn	Wheat	Canola	Alfalfa	Soybean
Income Per Acre					
Yield/acre	134	65	32	3.9	33
Selling Price Per Bushel or Tons (price based on projected futures price at harvest)	\$3.29	\$4.87	\$8.45	\$125.00	\$8.08
Gross Income/Acre	\$440.86	\$316.55	\$270.40	\$487.50	\$266.64
Direct Costs Per Acre					
Seed*	\$108.00	\$43.00	\$40.00	\$53.36	\$67.00
Fertilizer & Lime	\$75.22	\$56.11	\$54.58	\$89.27	\$29.45
Herbicides	\$28.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	\$0.00	\$24.00
Insecticides	\$3.20	\$0.00	\$2.63	\$3.00	\$4.00
Drying Fuel	\$28.00	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment Fuel & Oil	\$10.67	\$10.90	\$9.21	\$12.20	\$7.22
Equipment Deprec. & Repair	\$72.00	\$54.25	\$56.00	\$78.00	\$53.00
Crop Utilities	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$3.00
Crop Haul & Truck	\$20.00	\$9.60	\$21.60	\$21.60	\$6.12
Crop Marketing & Storage	\$14.00	\$4.50	\$16.00	\$11.00	\$7.00
Crop Insurance	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
Land Charge	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Total Direct Cost/Acre	\$433.09	\$265.36	\$286.02	\$323.43	\$270.79
Gross Profit Per Acre	\$7.77	\$51.19	-\$15.62	\$164.07	-\$4.15
Straw sales 1 ton/acre		\$125			
Wheat Straw baling		-\$57			
Wheat Straw bale hauling		-\$10			
Wheat Gross Profit Per Acre w/h straw harvest		\$109.19			
Cost per unit (breakeven)	\$3.23	\$4.08	\$8.94	\$82.93	\$8.21
Crop Risk Factor (1 low - 5 high)	2	3	4	2	3
Crop risk factors include frost damage, drought, wildlife damage, hail, wind, etc. These crop budgets do not include labor cost.					
Estimated Labor requirement hrs.per acre	3.1	3.2	2.7	4.6	2.5
Budget projections as of 2/9/2016 Fertilizer prices \$354 for 46-0-0; \$545 for 11-52-0; \$348 for 0-0-60. lime \$30/ton *alfalfa seeding year cost is prorated over 5 years with a total costs of \$330/acre less the value of 1st yr. hay f \$432/acre less the value of 1st year hay. Fuel price used for diesel is \$1.50/gal					

Developed by Jerry Lindquist, MSU Extension for Northern Michigan Farms



The Highland Ag and Natural Resources Conference



Saturday, March 19, 2016 9:15 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center
9901 East 13th Street, Cadillac, MI 49601

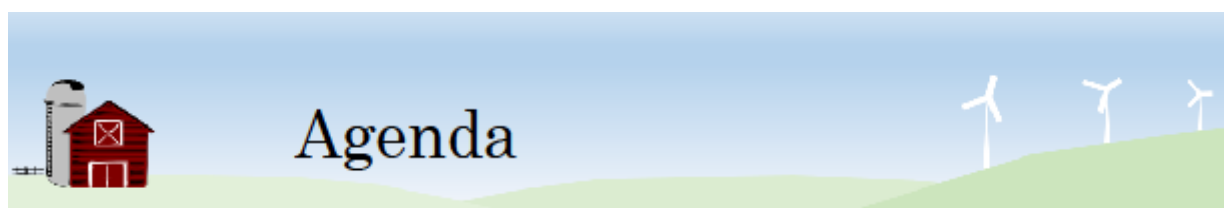


Malting barley in Michigan. Malting barley and hop production will be two of the topic areas covered at the Highland Ag Conference. Photo by Erin Lizotte, MSU Extension

[Michigan State University Extension](#), in partnership with the [Missaukee](#), [Osceola](#) and [Wexford County Conservation Districts](#), is pleased to announce the first Highland Ag and Natural Resources Conference on March 19, 2016, from 9:15 a.m.-3 p.m. at the [Career Technical Center](#) in Cadillac, Michigan. The conference is a great opportunity for existing, new or next generation farmers to learn what's next for Michigan agriculture. A variety of one-hour, concurrent educational sessions will be offered, with topics on soil health, novel crops, getting started with livestock, timber sales, invasive plants and much more. There is a special section of the conference focused just on youth and the career opportunities for young people in agriculture and natural resources. Ag-related vendors and agencies will also be on hand. See complete agenda on the next page.

The pre conference registration fee will be \$20 for adults and a special fee of just \$10 for students. The fee includes lunch, refreshments and handout materials. You may register on-line at <http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=Highlandconf16> or mail in the registration form below. For information on sponsorship or vendor opportunities, please contact Tasha Lapinski at tasha.lapinski@macd.org or 231-832-2950. For general questions on the conference contact Jerry Lindquist at lindquis@anr.msu.edu or 231-832-6139.

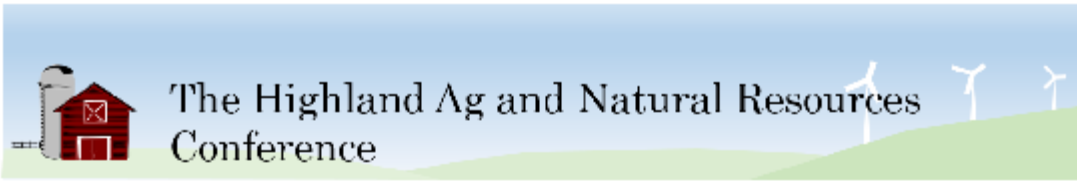
The Highland Ag and Natural Resources Conference



8:30-9:15 Main Hall REGISTRATION, REFRESHMENTS and TRADE SHOW

9:15-9:30 Main Hall WELCOME

	Youth	Soil Health	Crops	Livestock	Natural Resources
9:30-10:25	Post-secondary Educational Opportunities in Ag & Natural Resources Brian Matchett, Michigan State University	Introduction to Soil Health Justin Morris, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Growing Malting Barley and Hops Paul Gross and Erin Lizotte, Michigan State University Extension	Hay and Pasture Production Basics Jerry Lindquist, Michigan State University Extension	Invasive Species Threats to Farmland Vicki Sawicki, Soil Conservation District
10:30-11:25	Leadership and Career Opportunities through FFA Mark Johnson, Wex-Miss Career Tech Center and FFA Students	Tillage and Soil Health Jim Marshall, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Marketing Options for Farms Kendra Wills, Michigan State University Extension	Consumer Misconceptions about the Health Aspects of Beef and Milk Products Cindy Hulings, MI Beef Industry Comm, and Kathy Lee, Michigan State University Extension	Improving Your Property for Pollinators Ben Phillips, Michigan State University Extension
11:30-1:00	LUNCH, TRADE SHOW and TOUR				
1:00-1:55	Agriculture and Natural Resources Careers Betty Jo Krosnicki, Michigan State University	Choosing the Right Cover Crop Dean Baas, Michigan State University Extension	Vegetables for Northern Michigan Ben Phillips, Michigan State University Extension	Dairy Manure Handling & Utilization Trends Ryan Winnebrenner, Sikkema's Equipment & Dairy Farmer	Professional Forestry Assistance Steve Kalisz, Cons. Forester; Ben James, Pac. Corp. of America; Rick Lucas, Conserv. District
2:00-2:55	The Basics of Being Your Own Boss Sara Keinath and Betty Jo Krosnicki, Michigan State University Extension	Cover Crop Seeding and Establishment – What We Have Learned Farm Producer Panel facilitated	High Yield Wheat Production Dennis Pennington, Michigan State University Extension	What It Takes to Start Raising Livestock Cora Watts, Falmouth Cooperative	Wildlife Cooperatives - Anna Mitterling, MI United Conservation Clubs



The Highland Ag and Natural Resources Conference

Saturday, March 19, 2016

Registrant Information

First Name Last Name
Address
City, State, and Zip
County Phone Number
E-mail

Payment—I would like to register for the Highland Agriculture and Natural Resource Conference
Please make checks payable to: MSU Mail to: MSU Extension, 301 W. Upton Street, Reed City, MI 49677

- Adult (\$20.00) High School or College Student (\$10.00)



Mr. Forage Is Coming to the Great Lakes Forage and Grazing Conference

This year's 2016 Great Lakes Forage and Grazing Conference is loaded with cutting edge research and information from progressive farmers, forage researchers and educators across the Mid-West and best of all it is open to everyone right at the Michigan State University Campus.

The 2016 Great Lakes Forage and Grazing Conference will take place on Thursday, March 10 at the Michigan State University Kellogg Center on the MSU Campus. The educational day long event is jam-packed with information on producing hay, silage and pasture for dairy, livestock, equine and other farms in the Great Lakes region. Over fourteen speakers will provide the latest research and progressive farming practices on everything that is forage related.

This year's keynote speaker for the conference will be Dr. Dan Undersander, the University of Wisconsin Forage Specialist. Dr. Undersander is one of the leading forage researchers in the United States. For over 35 years his research on alfalfa and grass forage production has been highly valued by the dairy, livestock, and cash crop hay farms. He will speak in two sessions during the conference on the future of forage genetics and on forage machinery management and innovations.

The conference will feature many other speakers including MSU Forage Specialist Dr. Kim Cassida's new research on alfalfa/grass establishment, Roundup Ready alfalfa, and the use of cover crops for haylage.

New testing results on the availability of sulfur in alfalfa across Michigan will be offered by MSU Extension Educator Phil Kaatz. For the grazing community MSU grass-fed beef research updates will be provided by Dr. Jason Rowntree of the MSU Animal Science Department and by a group of Michigan grass-fed beef producers. Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, MSU Small Ruminant Specialist will offer his findings on optimizing forages for sheep and goats. In addition the topics of baleage production and alfalfa fertilization will also be addressed. A tradeshow of businesses with products and equipment for the forage industry will also be available during the day of the conference.

To learn more about the conference and to register go to the hyperlink at <http://events.anr.msu.edu/GLFGC2016/> Those without Internet access may contact the Lapeer County MSU Extension Office at 810-667-0341 or MSU Extension Grazing Educator Jerry Lindquist at lindquis@anr.msu.edu or 231-832-6139.

Anyone needing special accommodations to attend the conference should notify the sponsors at least five days before the event. MSU Extension programs are open to all people.

Michigan wheat growers set record yields in 2015

Many Michigan wheat growers enjoyed strong yields this past season and are hoping for encore performances in years to come.

Posted on **January 19, 2016** by [Martin Nagelkirk](#), Michigan State University Extension



Winter wheat may generate high yields again in 2016 despite some challenging winter conditions. Note exposure on wind-swept knolls and pockets of ice.

Michigan winter wheat growers achieved the highest average yields in the state's history during the 2015 season. According to the [USDA Small Grains 2015 Summary](#), the 81-bushels-per-acre-yield topped the previous record of 76 bushels set in 2012. The 2015 yield also establishes Michigan as having the highest non-irrigated wheat yields in the United States. These records occurred despite late planting dates in fall of 2014 and a severe yield-limiting weather pattern in southern Michigan.

As shown in the diagram below, yields had plateaued around 75 bushels before the 2015 crop was able to break the imaginary ceiling and support a trend line that suggests an average annual yield improvement of nearly one bushel. With this strong performance, the question of how to surpass the 81-bushel mark is unavoidable.

Of course, the recipe for high yields (and profitable yields) requires a generous portion of favorable weather this winter and throughout the 2016 growing season. Beyond this, and to the extent they have some influence, producers would do well to continue honing those production practices and inputs that have proved effective in recent years, including:

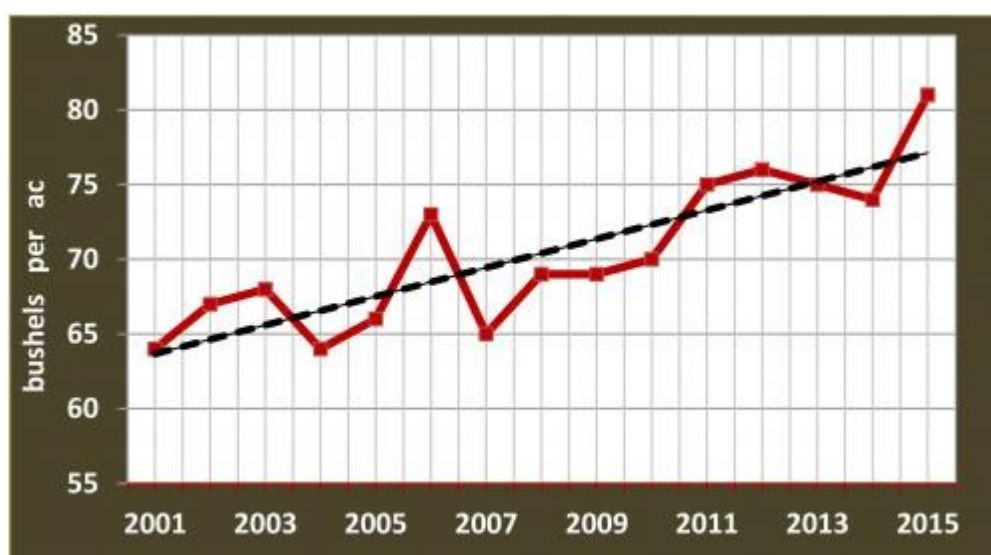
- **Early planting dates.** Arguably, one of the most cost-effective measures for improving wheat yields is to plant relatively early (the latter half of September to the first week of October for central Michigan). This may involve adjusting your rotation or, more often, planting an earlier maturing soybean variety that would allow earlier harvest and, in turn, earlier wheat planting.

- **Seedling establishment.** Over the past several years, growers have justifiably placed greater emphasis on achieving more uniform stands in fall by better managing residue from the previous crop and using newer grain drills. These strong stands represent the foundation for achieving optimum wheat performance.

Using fungicides. Based on [Michigan State University Extension](#) research and growers' experiences, the use of fungicides to limit leaf diseases has led to the greatest boost to wheat yields in recent years. The greatest return has been where Prosaro or Caramba fungicides have been applied a few days after the wheat heads fully emerged from the sheath. While this practice usually bumps yields by 4 to 10 percent, the application provides the added benefit of reducing Fusarium head scab and, in turn, vomitoxin levels.

- **Managing nitrogen fertilizer.** Growers, in general, have tightened their nitrogen management. Continued improvements related to product applications and a fine-tuning of nitrogen rates are likely to further insure profitable wheat yields.

- **Variety selection.** Without the benefit of hybridization or genetic engineering, wheat breeding has not improved yields to the extent it has in some other crops. Nevertheless, new varieties need to be evaluated and potentially adopted as they usually out-perform older varieties. More importantly, in the next few years growers are likely to see many more varieties containing significantly improved disease resistance – particularly Fusarium head scab. This development will help reduce production risks and ultimately improve grower's bottom line.



Michigan wheat yields, 2001-2015

Beyond these yield-winning practices, growers might do well to continue supporting wheat research and education. One potential avenue is through the [Michigan Wheat Program](#), whose mission is to promote the profitable production of wheat in Michigan. This program is currently holding a continuation referendum and growers are encouraged to vote. The ballot, which should have been received in the mail from [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development](#), needs to be completed and postmarked by Jan. 22, 2016.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <http://bit.ly/MSUENews>. To contact an expert in your area, visit

<http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).



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