



UP Ag Connections

725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953

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NEWS & VIEWS

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Last month I was hoping that we would be looking back at December and remembering how brutally cold it was. Now I'm looking at the combined cold temperatures and increasing snow banks wondering how long this weather pattern can continue. Is it possible that we're only half way through this? It's interesting talking with producers in various locations across the U.P. and Midwest the impacts of this winter. Believe it or not, there has been a trend that temperatures are colder farther south into the southern U.P., Wisconsin and Illinois. I grew up in Illinois and it has been somewhat humorous talking with family back home and seeing they are colder than we are here.

This weather has a real impact on livestock. Animal efficiency is decreased with the cold. Animals exposed to wind will multiply that effect. Animal care becomes critical when the weather is so severely cold for extended periods of time to maintain acceptable efficiency, production, body weight, and body condition.

The effects will influence just about every type of livestock. Some more than others. Dairy farmers have had concerns with frozen teats, loss of production efficiency and in cases where nutrition has allowed extra loss of body weight, reproduction will likely be impacted as well as overall herd health. Beef producers feeding marginal quality hay that is allowing cows to become thin will likely see a drop in calf survival and conception rates later this spring. Calves being born in this weather need even more care to ensure healthy survival. Fertility rates on bulls is going to lower as many will have less body condition and more signs of frozen testicles. Sheep and goat producers need to pay particular attention to body condition and lambs and kids are being born, just like calves are going to need special attention to combat the freezing cold.

Livestock producers are facing real challenges to ensure that their stock is well cared for. This is the year that producers need to anticipate upcoming challenges. Treating for lice as an example, if a producer typically waits until seeing slits of hair loss at the twist or over the neck area to treat, that may be too late this year. If the bitter cold and high winds continue, any hair loss will be too much. This weather dictates that producers use more bedding. This may be the year that supplemental feed is required. Unfortunately, as the weather seems to make life that much harder, come the time we need to be smarter and give that extra effort to ensure that our stock is kept healthy and well cared for.

~Frank

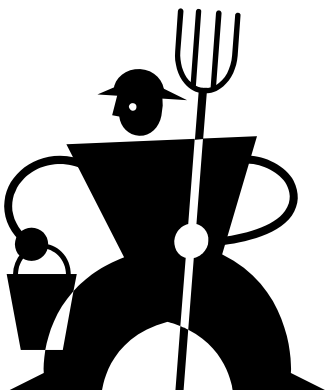


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MARKET REPORT (1/23/14)

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Market Ready Prices

Choice Steers	\$125-\$154	per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$115-\$139	per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$52-\$54	per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$150-\$180	per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$70-\$99	per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$100-\$140	per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$75-\$120	per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1700 - 2200	per head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1300 - 1800	per head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$13.40	\$268.00	\$220-316
Soymeal	\$22.07	\$591.50	\$510-673
Oats	\$15.85	\$317.00	\$260-374
Barley	\$14.27	\$285.50	\$215-356

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—150 Bales 4 X 6 approximate 1500 lbs. \$40 each Call 906-367-1212

Small Square Hay Bales for Sale. First cutting. Mix of timothy, clover and trefoil, 50-60 lbs. \$3.50 per bale - Stored inside, natural twine Call 805-234-8543 or 906-827-3748

For Sale: 4' X 5' wrapped round bales of 1st and 2nd crop Alfalfa, Timothy, Brome Mix hay. 906-446-3398

Looking for a past edition of the newsletter?
Check out www.maes.msu.edu/upes

Birth Management for Small Ruminants clinic

MSU Extension hosts Birth Management Clinic for Small Ruminants Feb. 15 and 22.

Posted on **January 22, 2014** by **Dr. Richard Ehrhardt**, MSU Extension Sheep and goat producers commonly find the birth period to be one of high reward but also of high anxiety. Proper planning and preventative management go a long way in reducing the stress of this period on both animals and their owners. There are many management skills and approaches to consider and hone that will improve the health and productivity of your flock or herd.

To learn the latest concepts on how to more effectively manage the birth period, producers can attend the Birth Management for Small Ruminants clinic taught by Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, Michigan State University Extension small ruminant specialist.

Dr. Ehrhardt will share the latest concepts and skills gleaned from the field and supported by sound science. The 6-hour program contains valuable information for both experienced and novice producers to help them hone their management skills and decision-making through discussion, demonstrations and hands-on activities.

The clinic will be repeated on both **Feb. 15** and **Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** The program will be begin at the Onondaga Township Hall, 4756 Baldwin Road, Onondaga, MI 49264 at 9 a.m. and then move to a modern sheep birth facility located nearby at 6280 Kinneville Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 at 1 p.m.

Attendees will learn about the importance of nutritional management in preventing many of the common complications observed at birth and will learn how to assess maternal and newborn health and wellbeing. Specific training will be given in dealing with newborn hypothermia, difficult delivery and ensuring a strong bond between mother and offspring. Facility design and time and labor management issues will also be covered.

Enrollment is limited to 25 persons per session date. Registration is \$45 per person and includes a management guide book, treatment posters, lunch and light refreshments. Please complete your registration by Feb. 10. To register, Contact Carla McLachlan at 517-432-5402 or mclachl2@msu.edu. [Online registration is also available.](#)

This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-678-3464

Save the Date!

2014 U.P. Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference

The next U.P. Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference will be held at Bay College, Escanaba on Tuesday, March 11, 2014. Agriculture for Tomorrow offers the opportunity to attend educational sessions on a variety of topics, view displays from sponsors and network with others.

We are excited about the topics we will be offering this year around farm maintenance, local food systems, livestock and plants/crops. Several sessions will again qualify for MAEAP Phase I credit. New this year is there will be an opening session with the keynote speaker to kick off the day, leaving more time during lunch to view the displays and network.

Registration for the conference will open in January. We will again have the option for on-line registration and payment by credit card. You can also register as usual, by sending in your check and registration form or paying by cash or check at the door. If you would like more information about registering for the Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference, contact the Alger County MSU Extension office at 906-387-2530.

On-farm crop tests can be powerful tools for individual farmers

Simple, low-cost trials on your own farm can help you decide if a new practice will work for you

Jim Isleib, MSU Extension Educator

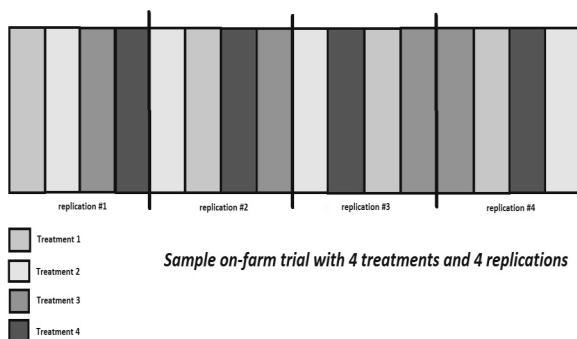
Every new product, seed variety, fertilizer or plant health product looks great in the company advertising...and new technology developed at Universities may have a lot of potential. But will it really do all that on your farm?

A key figure in the history of technology transfer to farmers is [Dr. Seaman A. Knapp](#), the father of 'farm demonstration'. He developed and promoted farmer demonstration, mostly in the southern U.S., during the 1880's until about 1910, before the establishment of the Cooperative Extension Service. Knapp said: "What a man hears, he may doubt; what he sees he may also doubt; but what he does, he cannot doubt." American agriculture, and the American farmer, have changed dramatically since then, but there is still value in this approach.

With some basic planning, and maybe some assistance from a local MSU Extension educator, conducting your own on-farm project is possible. It will take some extra time at planting and harvest, when you may be hurrying to get your normal work done. So it should be thought through thoroughly. Possible projects might include testing new crop varieties, fertilization products or practices, plant health products, or other agronomic practices.

'Demonstration' of a practice or product implies that no scientific analysis is done on the resulting information. A non-replicated 'side-by-side' trial is a common example of this approach. Demonstrations have value and can help with decision-making, but are not as convincing as a replicated trial.

To have much validity, even a simple on-farm test should be replicated at least 3 times. A higher number of replications is better. That is, each 'treatment' (seed variety, fertilizer rate, fungicide) should be repeated at least 3 or 4 times. The treatments should be randomized within each replication. This can be done without sophisticated equipment using the 'draw the name from the hat' technique. Most on-farm trials are planted in strips. If you have 4 seed varieties you



wish to compare for yield, then 4 varieties X 3 replications = 12 strips. Strips must be wide enough to accommodate your harvest equipment, and you need a good way to measure product harvested from each replication. A weigh wagon with built-in scale and auger is an ideal tool, if one is available locally. Your local MSU Extension educator or the nearest elevator may know where to find one. The site of a trial should be on as uniform a field as possible. Avoid changes in soil type or management history.

Care must be taken to avoid mixing seed during planting. Cleaning out a drill or planter between varieties takes time.

At harvest time, it is essential to be ready to record information as strips are harvested. If your project is a demonstration, your harvest data is all you need. If you try a replicated on-farm trial, you will need to have your information analyzed using statistics. This can be a little intimidating, but a simple, on-line tool designed especially for on-farm trials called [AgStats](#) can be used by those with limited knowledge of statistics. The program was developed by Oregon State University, Washington State University and the University of Idaho for the Pacific Northwest Conservation Tillage Systems Information Source. It is somewhat dated (old), but still works fine. You simply select the number of replications and treatments, type in a title, select a "probability level", usually 5% for strong statistical results, which means you are 95% sure that the difference is due to treatment effects and not to natural variability. The program allows choices up to 20% (80% sure). The AgStats program contains good background information about on-farm testing.

Early decisions for those interested in on-farm tests:

- Am I willing to 'make time' for this?
- Do I have access to good equipment for the things I want to test?
- Do I have a good way to measure yields?
- Is there a local resource person (like MSU Extension) I can work with on this?
- Should I consider an on-farm meeting to go along with the project?

Should I look for outside funds (like [NCR-SARE](#)) to help pay for the project expenses?

In my own personal experience working with farmers in the Upper Peninsula, I have helped farmers with on-farm trials on oat and barley varieties, perennial forage species and mixtures, use of industrial hardwood ash, fungicide use on oats and other projects. Every project doesn't work perfectly. On-farm trials are subject to the same challenges as normal farm crop production, and are more vulnerable to problems that will negatively affect final results. There is merit in repeating a test over a number of years for consistency. The information gained can make a real difference, and there is a lot of satisfaction in completing the on-farm project. Sharing this information with other farmers may add to this satisfaction. For more information, contact Jim Isleib, MSU Extension Educator at 906-387-2530 or isleibj@anr.msu.edu or your local field crop educator.

Breeding Soundness Exams for Bulls

Producers will again be able to have their bulls fertility tested at various locations across the Upper Peninsula in 2014. Dr. Dan Grooms, Large Animal clinic with MSU will be conducting breeding soundness exams and will be assisted by Dr. Renee Koyer with the Thompson Vet Clinic in Manistique on **April 21-25**. Any producer that has turned out an infertile bull knows the financial ramifications. High percentage of cows not pregnant next fall means high cull rate and replacement cost. Especially with our current situation of historically high cost of production and rising replacement cost, the cost of fertility testing is inexpensive. Also with the severe weather this winter, bulls will be thinner with a higher incidence of frozen testicles. The schedule of test sites will be the same as last year. To schedule testing your bulls at one of the sites, contact Frank Wardynski in the MSU Extension office in Ontonagon County at 906-884-4386.

MCA/MSU BULL SALE:

March 15, 12:30 (EST)

Open House at Station: March 1st

325 Mount Hope Rd, Crystal, MI

(Angus, Charolais, Hereford, Red Angus, Simmental)

Brian Plank: (989) 506-2061

MI Cattlemen's Association:

(517) 347-8117

www.micattlemen.org

**Free Field Crops Webinar Series offered
Monday evenings
February 24-March 31**

**Participants will receive condensed highlights
from winter MSU Extension programs covering
field crop production and pest management in
2014.**

Posted on **January 24, 2014** by **James DeDecker**, Michigan State University Extension

Field crop producers and agribusiness professionals who are unable to attend Michigan State University Extension's traditional winter programs have no need to worry. On Monday evenings from Feb. 24 through March 31, MSU Extension will offer the 2014 Field Crops Webinar Series addressing key production points for the coming growing season in a condensed virtual format. These live webinar programs will run from 7-8 p.m. EST and can be viewed independently online at no cost over a high-speed Internet connection. One MDARD Pesticide Recertification Credit will be available through each event for application to the Private Core, Commercial Core or Field Crops categories.

The Feb. 24 program will be presented by MSU Extension educators Martin Nagelkirk and Jim Isleib and focus on enhancing small grain systems in the coming season by addressing common production and pest management issues. On March 3, MSU Extension bioenergy educator Dennis Pennington will discuss emerging opportunities to harvest and market corn stover as livestock feed or a biofuel feedstock. On March 10, MSU field crops pathologist Martin Chilvers will address the questions of when and how to economically apply fungicides in corn and soybean systems.

On the evening of Monday, March 17, MSU field crops entomologist Christina DiFonzo will present her recent research findings regarding the development of Bt resistance among Michigan corn rootworm populations. On March 24, new developments in weed control technologies and herbicide resistance management will be the focus of the presentation by MSU weed control specialist Christy Sprague. The final webinar of our 2014 series will occur on March 31 and cover the integration of alternative forages and cover crops into Michigan production systems with a presentation by MSU forage specialist Kim Cassida.

MSU Extension's 2014 Field Crops Webinar Series represents a unique opportunity to access the expertise of MSU's field crop specialists from the comfort of your own home or office. Register online for one or more webinar program in the series. Once registered, participants will receive an email containing a link to connect to the webinars.

For additional information or assistance, contact James DeDecker at 989-734-2168 or dedecke5@msu.edu by Feb. 17 to request accommodations for persons with disabilities. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.

This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-678-3464.



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Sale Barn # 989-386-9256

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Steers, Heifers & Calves
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(Info available at time of sale)

January 9th, Thursday, 1:00 pm
March 20th, Thursday, 1:00 pm
April 17th, Thursday, 1:00 pm
May 8th, Thursday, 1:00 pm

Sale every Monday at 3:00 pm

For Market information go to www.davidclarkauction.com

January 2014 – FSA News

NEW COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOTS TO BE MAILED

The County Committee Election ballots that were mailed to producers on Nov. 4 were incorrectly printed with the producer's name and address on the back of the ballot. County committee elections must use a secret ballot so the misprinted ballots cannot be used. Please destroy or recycle the misprinted ballot. If you have already voted, your ballot will be destroyed unopened.

New ballots will be mailed to producers on December 20, 2013.

These ballots will indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope.

The corrected ballot must be returned to the Chippewa-County

FSA Office or postmarked by January 17, 2014. All newly elected county committee members will take office February 18, 2014. All county committee members whose term expires on Dec. 31, 2013, will have their term extended to January 31, 2014.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. The candidate in this year's election is:

Max Macaulay is nominated in LAA 1, to serve as a committee member.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2013 fact sheet and brochures, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES!

Producers now have until January 15, 2014, to report crops that have a November 15, 2013, or December 15, 2013, reporting deadline without paying a late-file fee. Crops under this waiver include wheat and native and improved grasses intended for grazing or haying. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) did not grant a waiver so producers need to consult their crop insurance agent for deadlines for insured crops. In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac County:

November 15, 2013:	Perennial Forage, Fall-Seeded Small Grains
January 2, 2014:	Honey (Certifying number of colonies)
January 15, 2014:	Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes
February 1, 2014:	Maple Sap (Number of eligible trees and taps)
July 15, 2014:	Forage Seedings, Spring-Seeded Small Grains
September 30, 2014:	Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Nursery (ornamental & non-ornamental)

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Additionally, producers can purchase both NAP and RMA coverage for 2014 annual forage crops. NAP coverage will not be available for 2015 annual forage crops.

Late file fees will be assessed for 2013 crops reported after September 15, 2013, and 2014 crops reported after January 15, 2014.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office.

FSA ANNOUNCES THE RESUMPTION OF 2013 CROP COMMODITY LOAN DISBURSEMENTS

The Farm Service Agency has resumed processing and disbursement of 2013 crop commodity loans. Crop year 2013 commodity loan-making was suspended Oct. 1, 2013, to make changes necessary to accommodate the automatic funding reductions known as sequester.

The commodity loan programs provide interim financing to producers for agricultural commodities stored after harvest and then sold throughout the year. Producers requesting 2013 crop commodity loans on their harvested commodities now will have a 5.1 percent reduction to the loan amount upon its disbursement, due to the sequestration. Commodity loans issued by marketing associations and loan servicing agents are also subject to the sequestration reduction.

During the period that loan-making was suspended, producers were still able to submit loan applications to their county FSA offices, marketing associations and loan servicing agents. The processing and disbursement of these applications will begin immediately.

For further information about commodity marketing loans, farmers may contact their local FSA office or go online to www.fsa.usda.gov.

INCREASED GUARANTEED LOAN LIMIT

The Farm Service Agency maximum loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,355,000 effective Oct. 1, 2013. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit is adjusted every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,655,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their local FSA Office with questions about farm loans.

Online Youth Animal Care Training Modules

Youth can learn animal care and quality assurance practices about beef, dairy, horses and swine without leaving their home!

Posted on **January 24, 2014** by **Julie Thelen**, MSU Extension Educator – 4-H Livestock and Veterinary Science

Although the cold temperatures are keeping youth inside, it is the perfect time to encourage young people to learn more about their large animal project! A variety of curriculum exists, in print as well as online, to teach youth about the project they are raising, and management strategies for maintaining human and animal health. According to [Michigan State University Extension](#), quality assurance programs promote the industry's efforts to produce a safe and wholesome food product, with particular attention to the care and well-being of animals raised for human consumption. Additionally, these programs include best production practices and animal management strategies, which are useful whether or not the animal is entering the food system.

Two youth quality assurance programs are available online; Youth Animal Care Training and [Youth Pork Quality Assurance \(PQA\) Plus](#). These programs are geared towards youth raising and exhibiting beef, dairy, horse and swine projects.

The [Youth Animal Care Training](#) was created in 2012 by the Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State University. These free online educational training modules are for high school aged youth and younger. Through participation in the training, youth can improve their knowledge of animal handling, animal welfare, antimicrobial residue avoidance and food safety. Currently, there are four training packages consisting of:

- [Youth Beef Quality Assurance](#) (28 modules)
- [Youth Beef Industry Food Safety](#) (7 modules)
- [Youth Dairy Animal Care and Quality Assurance](#) (31 modules)
- [Youth Humane Equine Management](#) (10 modules)

Youth register online and are immediately able to work through the multimedia training modules at their own pace. Each module ranges from five to 20 minutes in length. Once all the modules within a package are completed and quizzes are passed with 80 percent accuracy or higher, a printable certificate is available. There is no time limit or deadline to complete the modules and quizzes. If youth wish to keep their certificate for quality assurance up-to-date, they can re-certify every three years.

For more information about Youth Animal Care Training, visit www.animalcaretraining.org/youth.

[Youth PQA Plus](#) was created in 2007 by the [National Pork Board](#). The educational program is offered online or taught by a certified advisor face-to-face to youth ages eight to 18. Participants in this program will learn how to produce a safe and wholesome food product, with particular attention to the care and well-being of animals raised for pork.

Youth in Michigan have the option to complete their Youth PQA Plus certification training online by accessing an online tutorial hosted by the National Pork Board. To access the online system, youth need to contact the Pork Checkoff Service Center at 1-800-456-7675. Representatives at the service center will then register the youth for the online PQA Plus program. It may take the system up to three days to update the registration; once the registration is completed and the database is updated, an email will be sent to the youth with instructions on how to enter the online system. Once the youth has received access to the system, they will need to complete an online training module.

The system will automatically update the database with the youth's new expiration date and the youth will be able to print their PQA Plus number and expiration date once the process is completed.

Certified advisors will be able to search the system to find current information for the youth. For more information about the Youth PQA Plus program, visit <http://www.pork.org/Certification/2344/youthPqaPlus.aspx>.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-678-3464.

Winter's early start may increase hay demand

Posted on **January 17, 2014** by **Jerry Lindquist**, Michigan State University Extension

An early start to winter has caused many farms in the upper Midwest to reconsider whether they will have enough hay and other feeds to get their animals to spring. The summer of 2013 allowed many farms to replenish exhausted forage supplies that were caused by the drought the previous year. Still last summer's growing season was not perfect and many farms felt they had just enough feed to get through this winter as their harvest season ended.

Many farms after 2012's drought had made plans to harvest more annual forage crops and/or to graze longer in the fall in an attempt to save hay. The dry late summer and early fall across much of the Mid-West decreased the yield of these crops but many farms still were cautiously optimistic about their winter feed supply. But one last hurrah of 2013 - the colder than normal, snowy December, led to early and substantial hay feeding on many livestock farms according to [Michigan State University Extension](#) beef educators.

Farms that were hoping to graze stockpiled pasture forages and corn stubble fields into the new year had to bring the cows home early. Some farms that were hoping to harvest corn stalk bales for feed were not able to because of the late maturing corn crop and the early December snows. The colder than normal temperatures in December also lead to increased hay consumption. Studies show that ruminant animals will increase forage consumption from 5 – 15 percent when air temps drop below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. The lower the air temperature drops the more they will consume up to a maximum point of around 15 percent above normal. These farms now will be monitoring feed inventories closely as they progress through the winter and will be hoping for an early spring thaw. If winter lingers it could lead to a late round of hay buying as livestock owners stretch feed supplies to get to green grass.

In spite of the tough December weather, hay markets have held steady to the beginning of the new year. The high quality dairy type alfalfa hays remain in short supply and continue in the price range of \$180 - \$290 per ton. The lower quality alfalfa/grass mixed and grass hays that are well suited for livestock animals have tightened up their lower price end slightly and now are ranging from \$115 - \$210 per ton depending upon quality, bale type and storage. Normally new hay comes on the market in the new calendar year. This is done to delay the seller's income into the next tax season and with the hopes that hay prices may improve as the winter goes on. It often has the opposite effect on the market as the extra supply many times softens the price. However this year it is not anticipated that this new year supply will be large as hay prices and demand were strong enough during the harvest season that much of the hay was sold as it was harvested.

Livestock farm managers that believe their winter feed supplies may be tight are encouraged to contact a [MSU Extension Beef Team member](#) early in the winter season to strategize feeding options while they still have choices. For those wanting to locate hay for sale or to determine asking prices of hay go to the [Michigan Hay Sellers List](#). For more information, contact me at lindquis@anr.msu.edu or 231-832-6139. This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-678-3464.

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*****If you do not wish to receive this publication, please contact the Ontonagon County MSUE office at 906-884-4386.**

Meetings & Events Calendar

February

Feb. 5, 7:00 pm Getting started with organic vegetable pest control webinar, register on-line at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/getting_started_with_organic_vegetable_pest_control \$10 fee

February 5-6, Southwest Michigan Horticulture Days, Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College, 2755 E. Napier Ave, Benton Harbor, MI

February 10, 7:00 pm Getting started with selling to schools and hospitals webinar <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/> \$10 fee

February 11 Biology of Soil Compaction, 2:00 pm

February 18-19 MSU Integrated Pest Management Academy 2014, Conference Center, 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos, MI

February 19 7:00 pm Getting started with selling aft Farmers Markets webinar <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/> \$10 fee

February 24 7-p.m. Small Grain Production webinar <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/>

March

March 3 7-8 pm Corn Stove as Feed and Fuel Webinar <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/>

March 7 1:00 pm Dry Bean Growers update, Fairbanks Twp. Hall, Fayette, MI Contact Jim Isleib 906-387-2530 (more info in March AG Connect)

March 10 Corn and Soybean Fungicides <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/> Free webinar

March 11 U.P. Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference, Bay College Escanaba, MI

March 11 Soil Health and Production Benefits of Mob Grazing

March 15 Beginning Bee Keeper Workshop call 906-884-4386 for more information

March 15 MCA/MSU Bull Sale, Crystal, MI. Contact Brian Plank (989) 506-2061.

March 20 1:00 pm Clare County Livestock Auction, LLC

March 29 Advanced Bee Keeping Workshop call 906-884-4386 for more Information

April

April 21-25 Breeding Soundness Exam for Bulls

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