

UP Ag Connections

725 Greenland Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953

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Published Monthly

NEWS & VIEWS

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Below you'll find an excellent piece sent in by Ben regarding our loss of a good friend. Lloyd Johnson passed away last month and will leave a void in U.P. agriculture. Surprisingly, many like me will miss not receiving his verbal jabs of agitation. He was a good hearted person that played a key role in the marketing of cattle across the U.P. I will truly miss Lloyd and his ribbing.

Last month Warren Schauer announced he would be retiring. His first day of retirement started on November 1. I will miss the opportunities to work with Warren on our upcoming extension programming. I am serving on the selection committee to refill the position and MSU is committed to fill the position as expediently as possible with a farm management educator. I see the position as vital to moving agriculture forward in the U.P.

I've given my perspective before regarding managing a farming operation as business before. Every business relies on three separate but integrated pieces: Production, Marketing, and Business Management. I could be wrong on this next statement, but I don't think that I am. Most farmers enjoy and have more expertise on the production side of the agricultural business, while spending more time, energy, and effort on production also. If profitability is important to any farmer, farm management needs to be as important as any other aspect of the business.

My hope is that we can find someone quickly to work with beginning and existing farmers with an objective of ensuring profitability. ~Frank

Losing a Friend

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Lloyd Johnson, cattle dealer from Escanaba, passed away on Oct 13, 2013. I am sure many cattle people in the UP knew Lloyd, and or maybe his father, Felix, or maybe his son Gary. The Johnsons, including son's Ron, Steve, and Bill have been in the cattle buying and trucking business for many years. I got to know Lloyd because for many years he purchased the 100~ 200 stocker cattle that we grazed on our farm. Lloyd was not the perfect cattle buyer as we would occasionally get a heifer mixed in the group but he always brought us cattle that had the potential to make a profit. In addition, Lloyd was willing to share his advice, not always asked for, but often very useful. I learned a lot from Lloyd about the cattle business but probably more importantly, I learned a lot about working with people. Lloyd was sometimes gruff on the outside but really cared about UP dairy and beef producers, he worked hard – lots of hours and many miles, and he was proud of his family: he will be missed.

Ben Bartlett

MARKET REPORT (10/24/13)

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

Market Ready Prices

Choice Steers	\$115-\$130	per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$112-\$118	per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$64-\$70	per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$125-\$145	per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$67-\$88	per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$80-\$140	per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$70-\$170	per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows \$1400 - 1800 per head Grade Holstein bred heifers \$1200 - 1600 per head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range	
Corn	\$15.95	\$319.00	\$260-378	
Soymeal	\$32.28	\$645.40	\$490-801	
Oats	\$16.66	\$333.20	\$265-401	
Barley	\$15.28	\$305.50	\$215-396	
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—Small square grass mix—500lb round baled straw—small square straw 906-284-0949 Neil Adank

Hay For Sale—4X6 Net wrapped round bales—No Rain—Timothy—Trefoil—Clover Mix 1st cutting \$100/ton, 2nd



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

State-wide interest in local barley for local beer-making

MSU moves ahead with research on malting barley

Jim Isleib, Extension Educator

Barley production ranks a distant 3rd among small grains in Michigan, with approximately 8,000 acres harvested in 2011, compared to 30,000 acres of oats and 680,000 acres of wheat in 2011 according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. With a price of \$3.50 per bushel and average yield of 48 bushels per acre, it is no surprise that grain farmers were not diving into barley production. Most of the barley grain produced was used for livestock feed on-farm, or sold at local elevators. Barley is a reasonable choice for on-farm feed production.

Barley is comparable to corn in feed value, with about 9% less energy and higher available phosphorus. Grain is generally ground or rolled before feeding to improve feed efficiency. Some barley is stored as a high-moisture grain. Barley is still a good option in areas of the state where growing conditions make corn grain production unreliable. Your local MSU Extension educators can provide information on barley varieties, production practices and feeding programs.

But the real excitement in the Michigan barley picture has nothing to do with livestock or feed grains. The current, rapid growth in the Michigan craft brewing industry has resulted in strong interest in locally sourced ingredients for locally produced beer. For several years, MSU Extension has been involved in development of hops production in the Grand Traverse Bay area. Interest has also emerged regarding local availability of malt for small breweries. For malt products to be truly 'local', high-quality, malting grade barley grain must also be available locally. Malting barley grain standards are very high, requiring a higher level of crop management than feed-grade barley. The anticipated price for locally produced malting barley when a new, niche market emerges should make the effort to grow it worthwhile. Over the past 3 years, small-scale research projects relating to malting quality barley production have been funded by Project GREEEN and conducted at the MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center (UPREC) in Chatham, MI. Disease management, nitrogen fertility, and variety evaluation have been the focus so far. The idea driving these trials has been to create a new cash crop opportunity for northern Michigan farmers, with the possibility of entering the commodity malting barley markets, with points of sale in Wisconsin or further west. This summer, the concept of local malting barley grain and malt production emerged, with strong industry support from the Michigan Brewers Guild. With over 140 micro-breweries in the state, and more coming along, there may be real opportunities for specialty malting barley grain production. One problem is the lack of smaller scale, local malting facilities to process the barley grain into a malt product available to brewers.

Efforts are underway to expand research and development for local malt production state-wide, including production of malting grade barley grain. Key players include the UPREC, MSU Extension and the Michigan Brewers Guild.

Local malting barley grain production will probably not move barley acreage up a notch among the 3 top small grains in Michigan. However, it could provide good opportunities for farmers interested in a specialty crop.

For more information, contact Jim Isleib, MSU Extension Educator, isleibj@anr.msu.edu or 906-387-2530

Vaccinating cows for reproductive diseases begins with the heifer

The best time to vaccinate cows for reproductive diseases is before breeding but finding the window of opportunity after calving and before breeding can be challenging. The key starts with a sound heifer vaccination program.

Posted on October 8, 2013 by Frank Wardynski, Michigan State University Extension

The most effective time to vaccinate cows for reproductive disease is prior to the breeding season. If producers truly want to protect the developing fetus, cattle should be well vaccinated and immunity optimized before they become pregnant. It makes little sense to "boost" immunity half way through pregnancy because the opportunity has already been missed to protect the pregnancy. Vaccinating cattle challenges the animal's immune system and prepares it for disease pathogens it may face in the future. In general, modified live vaccines (MLV) are more effective than killed vaccine in developing a broad immune response and are generally recommended.

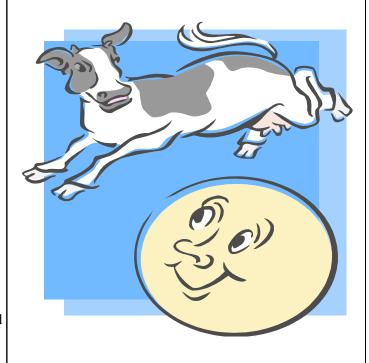
Finding the correct window of opportunity to vaccinate cows postpartum and pre-breeding is difficult. Cows vaccinated shortly after calving can exhibit immunosuppression and vaccinations should be administered no earlier than two weeks postpartum, and some recommend waiting three or four weeks. Naïve cows — which are cows that have not previously been vaccinated for the disease — that are administered reproductive MLV can demonstrate temporary infertility that may interfere with breeding season and cause delayed pregnancy.

Some MLV have been approved for use on pregnant cows. Using these vaccines during the final trimester of pregnancy offers producers the opportunity to vaccinate cows with MLV within a reasonable time before breeding. Vaccinating pregnant cows requires that that the cow was vaccinated with the same vaccine within the past 12 months. Vaccinating naïve pregnant cows creates a high risk of vaccine-induced abortions. Since protocols involving vaccination of pregnant cows have become popular, vaccine-induced abortions have risen significantly.

To avoid problems related to abortion, delayed breeding and immunosuppression, producers need to find the appropriate window of opportunity to vaccinate cows between calving and breeding Cows that have been well vaccinated over time can be vaccinated within one to two weeks of breeding and can even be incorporated into an estrus synchronization program without reducing fertility. However, naïve cows require more time between vaccination and breeding to minimize delayed breeding problems. Vaccinations with MLV should be administered at least 30 days prior to breeding.

A good vaccination program starts with making sure replacement heifers (and bulls) have been well vaccinated. This makes it easier to find appropriate windows of opportunities for vaccination in mature cows. Replacements should be vaccinated against diseases specific to each individual farm with the consultation of a veterinarian and receive timely boosters. As part of a sound vaccination program, Michigan State University Extension recommends that replacement cattle generally receive their first reproductive vaccinations at six to eight months of age, receive a booster vaccination two to four weeks later and again prior to breeding season at 13 to 15 months of age. Developing a heifer's immune system early and maintaining the system at a high level is the best defense against reproductive diseases. For more information contact Frank at wardynsk@anr.msu.edu or 906-884-4386.

This article was published by <u>Michigan State University Extension</u>. 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-MSUE4MI, (888-678-3464).



Profit Tips: 2013 tax planning — now, not later

Drovers/CattleNetwork news source | Updated: 10/14/2013

A common management practice for most farm operations is to do year-end tax planning in November and December each year to manage the farm's financial position. For 2013, Michigan State University Extension farm management specialist Dennis Stein recommends that you begin your tax planning now, as this is going to be a transition year for many farms in the Saginaw Valley area. It is clear that there is a commodity market shift in place, and this year's crop is on track for some major reductions in yields in many cases, with the potential for a major income drop in 2014. Income and tax planning can buffer this downturn.

A large number of farms carried the majority of their 2012 crop and livestock production sales into the winter of 2013. During the winter of 2013, many Saginaw Valley farms were able to take advantage of very good 2012 crop inventory amounts and commodity market prices that were very good. This situation pushed 2013 income to higher levels than in past years and increased the need to now manage that income with expenses and inventory management.

By putting together a multi-year plan of action now, a farm has more time to balance out commodity sales and purchases of inputs, and re ne plans for inventory management of the commodities that will be harvested and produced over the remainder of the year. A simple tax worksheet is available if you do your own tax planning. The worksheet is set up for 2012 but should be a close estimate to where you may be in 2013. For most farms that have not been active in forward pricing of commodities, the projected market prices for the 2013 crop will generate much lower income for farms over the fall and winter marketing season. Farms should look to balance year-to-year net income as a management tool to manage tax liabilities and avoid huge fluctuations from year to year. Farms that maintain a reasonable profitability for their farming operations year to year find debt management and service of family living needs a reasonable task. Additional tax planning information and resources are available at

the Farm Information Resource Management webpage at farm.

msue.msu.edu/agricultural taxes.



Host farm applications available for 2014 Breakfast on the Farm Programs

Five Breakfast on the Farm (BOTF) events were held throughout Michigan in 2013 and attracted more than 12,680 visitors. Now is the time for interested farm families to apply to host a 2014 event. Posted on October 18, 2013 by Nancy Thelen, MSU Extension

Since the inaugural <u>Michigan State University Extension Breakfast on the Farm</u> (BOTF) program was held in 2009 at Dutch Meadows Dairy in St. Johns, more than 53,550 visitors and volunteers have participated in the 26 programs held throughout Michigan. Twenty-two of the host farms have been dairy farms, two were beef farms, one was a crop farm and one was an apple operation.

BOTF is a program run by MSU Extension that is guided by a statewide advisory council and the events are made possible through local partners, generous statewide and local sponsors and many local volunteers. Host farms are selected by the advisory council through an application process. In an effort to reach consumers throughout Michigan, the council strives to have events in diverse geographic areas. Extension staff will offer guidance from the early planning stages to the day of the event.

Breakfast on the Farm showcases a selection of Michigan farms and introduces the non-farm public to the life and business of modern agriculture through a fun and educational event that emphasizes the importance of environmental stewardship, food safety and good animal care practices. The educational farm tours provide the public an opportunity to see modern, non-commercial farm operations first-hand.

"Breakfast on the Farm puts a face of the producer on the products that consumers buy at the grocery store; a face that builds producer/consumer trust," Hank Choate from Choate Belly Acres, a host farm in 2012, said. "As producers we need to continue to do all that we can to further build that consumer trust, because if we lose their trust there is nothing (higher production or other production efficiencies) that we can do on our farms that will make up for that loss. It is rewarding to work at BOTF. When I tell my story of how we care for our cows so they produce milk for them, the consumer, and then the consumer replies 'that just makes common sense', I know we have accomplished our goal."

Surveys from the past events show that approximately 45 percent of attendees have not visited a modern farm in 20 years or more. This educational program has helped to provide information and experiences for thousands of participants who have changed their attitudes about modern food production as a result of attending a BOTF.

Information on past events is available on the <u>BOTF website</u>. The application and a <u>checklist to guide interested host farms</u> are located under "Contact Us!" If you would like your farm to be considered for a 2014 event, please complete the application and submit it to your local MSU Extension educator for approval and submission to the program organizers by Dec. 4, 2013. The advisory council will review all applications and notify applicants in Dec. or Jan. of farms selected for a 2014 event.

If you have specific questions or would like additional information contact BOTF program organizers Ashley Kuschel at kuschela@anr.msu.edu or 586-469-7616 or Nancy Thelen at 734-222-3825 or the-lenn@anr.msu.edu .

This article was published by <u>Michigan State University Extension</u>. 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).

Where do all these soybeans go? A breakdown to uses for Michigan's second-largest commodity crop.

Posted on **October 8, 2013** by **Kendra Wills**, Michigan State University Extension

Anyone that drives around the bottom half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula can observe that we grow a lot of soybeans. Michigan typically ranks twelfth of the 31 states in the U.S. that produce this popular legume. In an average year, almost two million acres of soybeans are planted in the spring and harvested in October or November when the leaves and stalks turn brown. But why do we grow so much and where does it go?

According to Mike Staton, a Michigan State University Extension Soybean educator, soybeans contain two marketable components: meal and oil. Soybean meal is very high in protein. Ninety eight percent of soybean meal is used for animal feed (poultry, hogs and cattle mostly) and only one percent is used to produce food for people. On the other hand, 88 percent of soybean oil is used for human consumption (mostly cooking oil) and 12 percent is used as an alternative to petroleum oil. According to the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, soybeans are the number one source of plant-derived protein on the planet. The Chinese began cultivating soybeans over 3,000 years ago and there are many varieties grown all around the world today.

Almost all soybeans grown in West Michigan are processed by Zeeland Farm Services (ZFS). ZFS makes meal for animal feed and cooking oil - called Zoye - which is carried by many retail outlets including Spartan Stores and Meijer and is sold to restaurants and institutions by many food distributors. ZFS also exports soybeans to Japan for tofu, soy flour and miso. Some of the oil from ZFS is used to make biodiesel. B20 or 20 percent soy biodiesel and 80 percent diesel is commonly used by many diesel fleets. It requires no adjustments to diesel engines, produces less pollution, and reduces our need for non-renewable diesel fuel. Soybeans can produce both food (meal) and fuel (oil) at the same time.

Another surprising use of Michigan soybeans is soymilk produced by <u>American Soy Products</u> in Saline and marketed by <u>Eden Foods</u> in Clinton, Mich. Soymilk is lactose free and high in calcium and is sold in many outlets throughout the state.

Just this year, Grand Rapids Public Schools began purchasing Michigan roasted soybeans – called soynuts – produced and marketed by <u>Bur Oaks Farm</u> in Ann Arbor. They are serving the soynuts on school salad bars as a crunchy topping. Edamame are young soybeans harvested when the seed is at its maximum size but still green. They are typically steamed and served in stir-fry, salads or by themselves. Mike Staton says Michigan edamame is produced on a small scale and is sold in some farmers markets; however, he believes the demand to date has not justified larger scale production of this healthy legume.

Another reason we have so many soybeans is that they fit into a crop rotation with corn. This means one year farmers plant corn, and the following year they plant soybeans, and then go back to corn the next year. Staton says both crops perform better when grown in this rotation than they would under continuous production. Corn and soybeans are both highly valued crops with many buyers as both are used for many purposes including: food for animals, humans, for fiber, and energy. Surprisingly, exports of Michigan soybeans are larger than corn, increasing to \$589 million in 2010 alone.

So the next time to drive past a soybean field, I hope you will share with your travel partners all the uses of Michigan soybeans. If you want to learn even more, including free access to a classroom-based curriculum for $3^{\rm rd} - 5^{\rm th}$ grades, visit the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee website at www.michigansoybean.org.

This article was published by <u>Michigan State University Extension</u>. 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-MSUE4MI, (888-678-3464).



November 2013 - FSA News

ATTENTION PRODUCERS!! - 2013 Production Due

Your 2013 production is needed!! All field visits and crop appraisals need to be completed as soon as possible. Turn your production into the FSA office.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups. County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center is Dec. 2, 2013.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) INSURANCE DEADLINES

Has a natural disaster like drought, excessive rain, or high winds caused crop losses or prevented planting? Did this impact your bottom line? Crops not insurable under Risk Management Agency CAT Crop Insurance are covered under NAP and can be purchased for \$250 per crop and a maximum of \$750 per county!

To qualify for administrative service fee waiver, a limited resource producer must have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less that 50% of the county median household in both the previous 2 years. Limited resource producer status can be determined using a web site available through the Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self Determination Tool through the National Resource and Conservation Service at www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tols.asp. Please note that limited resource producers are required to recertify limited resource producer status annually.

THE NEXT <u>DEADLINE</u> for purchasing your 2014 policy is: December 1, 2013 - Honey & Maple Sap

SODBUSTER REGULATIONS

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage before bringing land into production.

CHANGE IN FARMING OPERATION

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

REMEMBER: If you carry NAP, all changes in farming operations must be made before filing a Notice of Loss.

HAY NET

Do you have hay for sale or are you looking for hay? If yes, then Hay Net could be for you. Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact a local FSA office.

GOVDELIVERY

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe.

GREAT INTEREST RATES: Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) Remember: these loans are now available for Hay/Forage Storage as well as traditional grain storage!

September Interest Rates:

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

Contact your local FSA county office for October's interest rates





- Sept-April: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

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Meetings & Events Calendar

November

What's Now? What's Next? A conversation with leaders from the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

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There are three opportunities available to the residents of the Upper Peninsula to participate. .

November 4th 10 am-12 noon CST Iron Mountain at the Antoine Room

November 4th 4 pm-6 pm in EST Marquette at the Ramada Inn November 5th 6:30-8:30 pm EST Sault Ste Marie at LSSU Cisler

Center

Together at the table—Recipes for a Sustainable Local Food System Call 906-225-0671 X11 to register for one of sessions below November 5th Houghton 8:30 am—4:30 pm
November 6th Marquette 8:30 am—4:30 pm
November 7th Sault Ste. Marie 8:30 am—4:30 pm

November 13 Entries due for the 2013 Michigan Winter Classic, contact Kyle Schrader 517-290-2972 or Stacy Rinsinger 810-875-8650

December locations and times will be in the next newsletter

December 11 – MMPA Menominee-Vacationland Local Meeting

December 12 – MMPA Western UP Local Meeting

December 13 – MMPA Chippewa Local Meeting

U.P. Agriculture Connection

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