



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

February 2026

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 30 Issue 2

In this issue:

News & Views

By Frank Wardynski

Page 2

- Farming in the Solar Future

Page 3

- Upcoming MSU Extension Programs for Beef Cattle Producers and Beyond

Page 4

- MSU Extension reaching out to Dairy Farmers in the U.P.
- Take the 2026 Forage Extension needs Assessment

Page 5

- Michigan 4-H Teens as Teachers Healthy Living Program
- Alger Conservation District Celebration

Page 6

- Advertisers

Page 7

- Advertisers
- Classifieds
- Market Report

Pages 8-11

- Ag for Tomorrow

Page 12

- Follow us on Facebook
- Alger Conservation District County Tree Sale Now Open

Great Friend Lost - Animal agriculture lost a friend and advocate. Maury Kaercher passed on February 10. He was an Extension Agent with Michigan State University for 28 years serving in Kalamazoo County then in St Joseph County. He is Past President of the Michigan Cattlemen’s Association. In retirement, he served as Executive Director of the Michigan Sheep Producers Association. Many beef producers will remember Maury coming to the UP to help with winter beef meetings presented across the state. I will remember Maury as one of my mentors as a young extension agent in Ionia County and as a good friend. My best simple description of Maury is passionate. He was passionate in every job or task I ever saw him in. Maury will not only be missed, he will be remembered.

Hard Winter Stretches – We have had some serious hard weather in about a two week stretch through January, really cold everywhere, lots of snow in certain places. I am pretty sure I had over 60 inches through that stretch. Now it looks like some warmer weather is coming. That should help settle some snow. Hopefully the real thaw is still a ways away and the melt does not take all the snow too fast, causing flooding. Usually, flooding is an inconvenience, but it can also be dangerous. And of course, the mud will follow, but not until after some more snowstorms. Can you tell I am ready for more pleasant weather?

Soil Health- I hope I am not being thought of as the guy that turned Hippy with all the soil health stuff I keep talking about, but I keep seeing good information about the benefits. Most recently, I was looking at some information about farmers with great corn yields and struggling with soybean yields. Come to find out soybeans love Water-Extractable Organic Carbon (WEOC). Unfortunately, high nitrogen applications will lower WEOC. What do we use to get big corn yields? Nitrogen fertilizer. I am one of those that in the past would deny anything I hear regarding, what was the term? Organic carbon? Plants need N, P and K and now I guess we need some zinc, and sulfur. Back in the good ole days we would get the sulfur for free when it rained.

Recently I helped present and host a webinar about using cover crops and livestock to help improve soil health. We hosted a farmer using those management practices. One of the questions asked was if improved soil health has increased yields. The answer was no. Increased profit comes from decreased inputs, mostly fertilizer, in his case. Improving soil health, especially soil aggregation,

helps improve the plants’ ability to absorb nutrients from the soil. Consequently, the quantity of those nutrients does not need to be in such high concentration. It will also allow more water to infiltrate and be held in the soil. So, don’t get in the mind set that improving soil health can’t improve profitability.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Michigan State University

AgBioResearch

Farming in the Solar Future: Part of the 'MI Ag Ideas to Grow With' Webinar Series

By Charles Gould

A four-part webinar series on integrating food production and clean energy development.

Agrivoltaics is a promising, emerging and rapidly evolving area of energy development that integrates agricultural production into solar arrays to keep land in farming. A webinar series sponsored by Michigan State University Extension will provide research-backed insights and real-world lessons on crop yields, livestock performance and best practices for farming within solar arrays. The following is a brief description of each webinar plus registration information. There is no registration fee, but registration is required to participate. Registration information can be found at the [MI Ag Ideas to Grow With](#) webpage. Questions about the webinar series? Contact Charles Gould at 616-834-2812 or gouldm@msu.edu.



Growing Grass and Alfalfa Hay Between Solar Arrays: Lessons learned from the Madison Fields Agrivoltaics Project and how hay production between arrays can be replicated in Michigan

Presenter: Eric Romich, Professor and Extension Field Specialist, Energy Development, Ohio State University Extension

Date and time: Monday, February 23 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Presentation description: Two 2023 reports by Ohio State University researchers found raising grass hay and alfalfa between rows of solar panels was feasible and that the harvest's nutritive value was good. But that small-scale work at the Pigtail Farms site in Van Wert County used data from only a few test plots and controls. The Madison Fields agrivoltaics project was designed to test whether similar results can be achieved on a large scale. Now in its second year, the Madison Fields agrivoltaics project is yielding new insights into growing grass hay and alfalfa between solar arrays. This presentation will help Michigan farmers learn how grass hay and alfalfa can successfully be grown between solar arrays. Yield and nutrient content data will be shared.

Where Veggies Meet Volts: Commercial vegetable production in a solar project

Presenter: Ajay Nair, Professor and Chair of the Department of Horticulture, Iowa State University

Date and time: Tuesday, February 24 from 7-8 p.m.

Description: This presentation will highlight growing bell peppers, squash and broccoli on a commercial scale in a solar park. Data on crop growth, yield and quality will be shared.

An Introduction to Solar Grazing with Inverter Cattle

Presenter: Jess Gray, Gray's LAMBscaping LLC

Date and time: Wednesday, February 25 from 7-8 p.m.

Description: Inverter cattle are a specialized composite breed combining Dexter, Belted Galloway, Pineywoods and American Milking Devon genetics for optimal solar site performance. Inverter cattle possess several key traits necessary for grazing around solar arrays including small stature, hardiness, docile temperament and efficient foraging. Inverter cattle can produce a product the consumer wants—less fat and meat with flavor. This presentation will introduce participants to inverter cattle and make the case for grazing inverter cattle in Michigan solar projects.



Solar Grazing in Michigan: Lessons learned from a Michigan sheep producer

Presenter: Sy Caryl, J&S Solar Grazing and Mowing

Date and time: Thursday, February 26 from 7-8 p.m.

Description: During the summer of 2025, J&S Solar Grazing and Mowing grazed sheep on two solar sites, one in Calhoun County and the other in Wexford County. The presenter will share best practices and lessons learned from his experience grazing sheep at those locations.

Upcoming MSU Extension Programs for Beef Cattle Producers and Beyond

By Frank Wardynski

2026 Winter Cow-calf Meetings

Michigan State University Extension is conducting three cow-calf meetings across the UP and two in Lower MI. Merck Animal Health will be sponsoring the meetings providing pizza and soft drinks. Topics will include beef market outlook, protecting cattle prices with the Livestock Risk Protection program, Effects of Maternal Bovine Appeasing Substance, and genetic selection for carcass characteristics. All programs will start at 6:00pm EST.

- February 26, Rudyard Township Hall in Rudyard
- March 24, Baraga Lakeside Inn in Baraga
- March 25, Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham

Note: the dates may appear off with the meetings a full month apart. The Rudyard site will be host to a crew of MSUE educators and specialists while the programs in Chatham and Baraga will be presented by Frank Wardynski. **Reservation is required and you should contact the Ontonagon County Extension Office to reserve a spot by calling 906-884-4386.**

2026 Beef Quality Assurance Certification - Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Cattlemen's Association will be hosting a Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certification program at **Bay College in Escanaba starting at 6:00pm EST on April 22, 2026.** Participants can sign up at <https://mcas.memberclicks.net/bqa2026#/> which is on the MCA website. Frank Wardynski will be present to deliver the program and proctor the test. This program will include a meal with soft drinks. Reservation is required so that we know how much food to bring.



Also in April, no date has been set yet, but a BQA Transportation certification program will be conducted in the Escanaba area. If interested, Contact Frank Wardynski at 906-884-4386 for more details.

Great Lakes Forage and Grazing Conference - March 19, 2026 at the CTE John C. Magnus Center, 3200 S. Clare Ave., Clare, MI. Topics will include: How "Grass" Bought the Farm, Sharing 45 Years of Best Forage Practices, Forage Research Update from MSU, You Need a Grazing Plan, Preventing & Dealing with Hay Fires, Virtual Fence - the "No Fence" Containment System, and a Panel Discussion of Farmers and Agri-business. Registration at [2026 Great Lakes Grazing and Forage Conference - Gladwin County](#)



PFAS Webinar series - PFAS, commonly known as 'forever chemicals', have been detected in agricultural lands from a variety of sources, including biosolids applied as fertilizer, other contaminated soil amendments (paper pulp, tannery waste), contaminated irrigation or drinking water, atmospheric deposition, and/or pesticides. Because of the direct link to our food supply, PFAS contamination in agriculture is of great concern.

A webinar series offered by Michigan State University Extension will provide research-backed insights and real-world applications on PFAS in agriculture. Topics will include an introduction to PFAS chemicals in agriculture, research in crops, produce and livestock, biosolids and septage, human health concerns, food safety standards, state and federal regulations, and mitigation strategies.

The free webinar series will be offered:

- Tuesday March 17, 2026 Introduction to PFAS in Agriculture
- Thursday March 19, 2026 PFAS in Crops
- Tuesday March 24, 2026 PFAS in Livestock
- Thursday March 26, 2026 PFAS in Biosolids and Septage.

Register today at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/PFASinAg/>.

The webinars will be recorded and available at a later date for viewing.



MSU Extension Reaching Out to Dairy Farmers in the U.P.

By Phil Durst

Monthly Community Dairy Calls:

Join us on a call the 2nd Friday of each month, January – April with your fellow U.P. dairy farmers and MSU Extension. The call is to share information, answer questions and build community!

Each call runs 11:00 AM—12:00 PM Central Time (12:00 PM—1:00 PM Eastern Time). In that time, a presenter will share information, answer questions and field input from you and your fellow colleagues. Calls are informal and you may join by phone or Zoom video conference.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/92303156330> Or One-tap phone: +13126266799,,92303156330# Meeting ID: 923 0315 6330

Schedule of topics and presenters:

- March 13, 2026 Dr. Augusto Madureira - Evaluating timed A.I. vs. Activity
- April 10, 2026 Dr. Paola Bacigalupo - Employee Management

Anyone who is part of the dairy community in the U.P. is welcome to join in for FREE.

If you have questions, contact Phil Durst, MSU Extension at durstp@msu.edu or cell: 989-387-5346.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Take the 2026 Forage Extension Needs Assessment!



The MSU Extension Forage Team is surveying Michigan forage producers / grazers and professionals to assess industry needs.

bit.ly/forageneeds

- This feedback helps improve existing programs and create new ones.
- All responses remain confidential.

Calling All Teens! Registration Open for the Michigan 4-H Teens as Teachers Healthy Living Program

By Brian Wibby

Michigan 4-H is excited to open registration for the **Teens as Teachers Healthy Living Program**, a free, hands-on leadership experience designed for youth ages **13–19**. The program equips teens with the skills they need to become positive role models and peer educators in their communities.

Participants will learn how to lead engaging lessons focused on topics such as mental and emotional wellness, physical activity, healthy lifestyles, and positive decision-making. Throughout the program, teens receive extensive support from MSU Extension 4-H staff, along with training in communication, teamwork, and facilitation.

In addition to invaluable life and leadership skills, teens will receive:

- A **scholarship to attend MSU 4-H Exploration Days** (including lodging and meals)
- A **\$100 stipend** after teaching their first healthy living lessons
- An official “Teens as Teachers” shirt
- All materials and supplies needed to teach in their communities

The program includes virtual training sessions in April, May, and June, plus an in-person training experience during **4-H Exploration Days at Michigan State University** on June 24–26. From July through December, teens will work in small teams to teach workshops for children and peers in their local communities, supported every step of the way by trained 4-H staff.

There is **no cost** to participate, but **space is limited**, and registration may close early if the program reaches capacity. **Registration deadline is April 15**. Families, teachers, and youth-serving organizations are encouraged to share this opportunity widely. Learn more and register today: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/teensasteachers/>



ALGER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
helping you manage your natural resources

Invites you to join them for their

66TH CONSERVATION CELEBRATION

JOIN US TO HEAR ABOUT STAFF & PARTNER 2025 PROJECTS,
COMMUNITY OUTCOMES, AND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2026!

SCAN TO [RSVP](https://events.anr.msu.edu/teensasteachers/) OR EMAIL ALGERCD@MACD.ORG

5:00 PM
Friday



March 20th,
2026

GALLERY COFFEE COMPANY, 120 ELM ST.,
MUNISING, MI 49862

FESTIVITIES INCLUDE:

BOARD ELECTION, AWARDS CEREMONY, GUEST SPEAKERS, HORS D'OEUVRES, FULL CASH BAR,
PROGRAM UPDATES, AND RESIDENT NATURAL RESOURCE SURVEY!

MENOMINEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU®

President: Peter Kleiman

Secretary: Shannon Sanders

906-779-1774

S&R  **Weston, WI**
Angus (715) 573-4924
www.srangus.com

Service age bulls, open females and show prospects for sale private treaty. Bulls are fertility tested and bred for calving ease



At the heart of growing America

100 years of Ag Experience

Loans, ag taxes, farm records, consulting

1801 N. Lincoln Road, Suite A, Escanaba, MI
(906) 786-4487 Fax: (906) 786-3450

Johnson Brothers Livestock

3740 18th Rd. Escanaba, MI

Buying or Hauling Cattle

St. Louis—Mondays, Gaylord—Wednesdays

Call Gary Johnson

Office (906) 786-4878 Gary Cell (906) 235-0099

Steve Cell (906) 399-2858



*Working to build
a vibrant U.P. food
economy since 1971*

Open Daily, 8 to 9 · Everyone Welcome
906-225-0671 · 502 W Washington St
www.marquettefood.coop

REGISTERED MAINE ANJOU AND ANGUS

CLAY KNOLL FARMS

OPEN & BRED HEIFERS AND BREEDING AGE
BULLS AVAILABLE

BREEDING CATTLE TO IMPACT THE
PRESENT AND INFLUENCE THE FUTURE.

BREEDING STOCK—BULLS
SHOW PROSPECTS—STEERS

DUANE & LISA SIMPKINS & SONS

DUANE CELL 989-329-6141

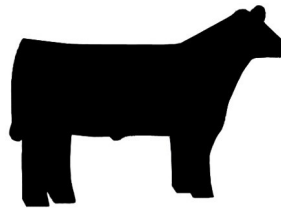
LISA CELL 989-578-0328

GARY & JAN SIMPKINS

HOME 989-426-8185

CELL 989-329-4668

GLADWIN, MI



Ray's Feed Mill

Ration & Crop
Consultants
Feed • Seed • Fertilizer



(800) 832-1822 or (906) 466-2231
Bark River & Norway

Rosebush Sale Barn, Inc.



Sale 1st Wednesday of each month

Baby heifer & bull calves sell every Tuesday at noon

Over 40 years experience in Dairy Business

If you're thinking about selling your herd, or a portion of
it, call us! We can help!

Hay & Straw available

Robert Filhart (989) 330-6005

www.rosebushsalebarn.com



Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association

WAUKON, IOWA
Feeder Sales Schedule

• 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

(563) 568-4501

www.equitycoop.com

United

Producers, Inc.

Farmer owned. Farmer values.

St. Louis Sale every Monday
Collection point in Escanaba
Call for more information (989) 681-2191



Skidders

Pickford, MI
(906) 647-5655 or
(877) 647-2500

Kubota, AGCO, Massey-Ferguson, New Idea, Hesston,
Gehl, Bush Hog, H&S, and Kverneland



Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association

*Collecting Cattle on Tuesdays at the
Larry Linsmeier Farm north of Menominee, MI*

(906) 863-8123

www.equitycoop.com

SMC

Stephenson Marketing Cooperative

We want to be your first choice!
Agricultural Services & Supplies

Stephenson, MI

(800) 445-6167

Powers, MI

(800) 962-3008

Market Report

Choice Steers	\$205-\$229 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$185-\$204 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$59-\$69 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$240-\$318 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$150-\$170 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$900-\$1350 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$260-\$390 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows top	\$3400/head
Grade Holstein bred heifers top	\$3600/head

MSO
MARQUETTE
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CARMEN!



Experience the
drama and passion
of Bizet's Carmen
brought to life by
guest opera
vocalists!



Saturday
March 7, 2026
4:00 PM



Kaufman Auditorium 611 N. Front St.
Marquette, MI

tickets.nmu.edu
906-227-1032



Classifieds

FOR SALE: Hay—mixed round bales, 700# stored inside. Also small square bales of **straw**. Call Jim Myers (906) 399-1649 or (906) 466-2672.

FOR SALE: Straw—large round & small square bales. **Hay**—large rounds of first & second crop, small squares of first, second and third crop. Call Marenger's Farm (906) 241-9365

FOR SALE: Mixed Hay—round bales 700# & 2nd cut small square bales. Call Alan or Karen Raynard @ (906) 647-6697, Pickford.

Winter Boarding for Cows—Hay, water, electric fence & wind break. Located in East Jordan, MI. Contact Jason Miller (231) 536-9778

5 year old Red Angus bull, Calvo Genetics.

Paperwork available.

Contact Jon Ahlberg at Jahlberg@fast-air.net or (906) 284-7811

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$15.19	\$303.75	\$220-510
Soymeal	\$27.99	\$559.75	\$440-655
Oats	\$18.20	\$364.00	\$319-416
Barley	\$15.08	\$301.50	\$240-386
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

Vol 3. May
MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Up to 4 RUP
Credits



*Agriculture
for
Tomorrow
Conference*

Register Today!



Thursday, March 12th, 2026 9:00 – 4:00 EST

Bay College, Escanaba

Joseph Heirman University Center

2001 N Lincoln Rd, Escanaba, MI 49829

Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference

Thursday, March 12th, 2026 - Bay College, Escanaba, MI

9:00-9:45 (EST)	Registration & Educational Exhibits—Joseph Heirman University Center (JHUC) Atrium			
9:45-10:30 JHUC 952	Welcome: Dr. James DeDecker, Director, Upper Peninsula Research & Extension Center Keynote Address: "Northern Michigan University's Controlled Environment and Indoor Agriculture Programs: Preparing Students for the Future of Food Production" —Lehren Olk-Szost, NMU Assistant Professor			
	<u>CROPS (FIELD & VEG) TRACK—JHUC 901</u>	<u>LOCAL MARKETING TRACK—JHUC 903</u>	<u>HOMESTEAD TRACK—JHUC 911</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK TRACK—JHUC 909</u>
10:45-11:40	A-1 The Newest Technology in Tractor Tires	A-2 Farm to Family Listening Session	A-3 (RUP credits) Intro to Permaculture and the Soil Food Web	A-4 How Technology is Helping Dairy Producers
11:40-12:10	Visit Tradeshow Exhibitors & Sponsors in JHUC 952 Conference Room			
12:10-1:00	Lunch in Cafeteria (Student Center Room 533)			
1:00-1:55	B-5 (RUP credits) Biocontrol Options for Vegetable Insect Pests	B-6 Farmer Stories from the Field: Selling to Institutions	B-7 Cold Storage for Season Extension	B-8 (RUP credits) PFAS in Agriculture
2:05-3:00	C-9 Understanding Year-end Financial Analysis	C-10 Bringing the Farm to School	C-11 (RUP credits) Small Scale Pastured Broilers & Turkeys	C-12 Farrowing Two Litters of Pigs per Year
3:10-4:05	D-13 (RUP credits) Cultural and Biological Disease Management for Small Growers	D-14 Fundraising, Funding Models, and New Farm to Institution Grants	D-15 Michigan Cottage Food Law Overview	D-16 Grass, Grain on Grass, or Grain-Fed Beef?

Registration Form

Name(s): _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Cost of attendance is \$30 for pre-registration

- * Due by March 1st – online (below) or mail paper form
- * After March 1st, the registration fee will be \$40 per person online and at the door.
- * On-site registration is cash or check only, no cards!

Fee includes lunch and materials

Number of attendees-- _____ x \$30 = _____

For registration information contact Frank Wardynski @ wardynsk@msu.edu, 906-884-4386

If you are interested in being a sponsor, vendor, and/or exhibitor, contact Paul Naasz at naasz@msu.edu or 906-439-5114

Make checks payable to: MSU Extension

Send check and form to:

MSUE Ontonagon County

725 Greenland Rd.

Ontonagon, MI 49953-1492

Receipts will be available at the door



To register on-line go to: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2026Ag4Tomorrow/>

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 orientations, marital status, family status or veteran status. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling 906-884-4386 at least one week prior to the scheduled event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.

Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference

Thursday, March 12th, 2026 - Bay College, Escanaba, MI

Session A

10:45-11:40 am

A-1—JHUC 901

The Newest Technology in Tractor Tires

This presentation will cover the latest technologies pushing performance in agricultural tires. Learn how proper tire selection and maintenance can help you save money and improve performance. We'll cover a brief history of Firestone, market trends and Firestone-Bridgestone "Advanced Deflection Tire Technology" (IF-VF Tires)

Brant Howe, Firestone Agriculture

A-2—JHUC 903

Farm to Family Listening Session

Please join us for an interactive listening session hosted by MDARD's Farm to Family Program. This event will be an opportunity to offer feedback and input to help design future MDARD funding opportunities. The Farm to Family Program is a new program dedicated to strengthening local food supply chains, by offering grants, networking opportunities, and marketing consultations to farmers and food businesses across the state.

Cheyenne Liberti - MDARD Farm to Family Program Manager
Elena Aleman - MDARD Farm to Family Program Coordinator

A-3—JHUC 911

Intro to Permaculture and the Soil Food Web (RUP Credits)

Interested in managing your land with an effective balance of care for people, the earth and production? You will leave this presentation/conversation with an applicable understanding of basic permaculture principles & practices as well as a functional window into supporting soil health as a direct result of healthy microorganisms.

Keats Dormont, Partridge Creek Farm Education Coordinator

A-4—JHUC 909

How Technology is Helping Dairy Producers

Join this session to discuss various technologies (activity monitors, rumination, temperature, AMS milking, auto sprayers, smart sprinklers, A.I. in the parlor and maternity pen) and how they can impact management. Learn how to evaluate when and what technology is right for your operation.

Phil Durst, MSU Extension Dairy Educator

Session C

2:05-3:00 pm

C-9—JHUC 901

Understanding Year-End Financial Analysis

With high input costs and variable prices, now is the time to look closely at your farm finances. It is strongly recommended that farmers complete each year with a farm financial analysis. This session will cover the details needed to conduct the financial analysis and how to interpret the results. This information is used to compare the financial strength of your operation.

Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Educator

C-10—JHUC 903

Bringing the Farm to School

What does a farmer need to know and do to engage with schools in getting their products in school meals? This session provides an overview of current Farm to School activities in west Michigan and offers farmers an interactive look at resources and considerations for making school markets a viable part of their business plan.

Clarence Rudat - MSU Extension, Innovation Counselor and FARM Incubator Manager

C-11—JHUC 911

Small Scale Pastured Broilers and Turkeys (RUP Credits)

Poultry are the perfect entry point for homesteaders and small farmers seeking to incorporate meat livestock in their operations. Raising broilers and turkeys on pasture requires a distinct set of skills and infrastructure. Join this session to learn the how-to, challenges, and benefits of raising meat birds on pasture with a focus on small-scale systems.

Michelle Sweeten, MDARD Regenerative Agriculture Field Coordinator

C-12—JHUC 909

Farrowing Two Litters of Pigs per Year

This presentation will discuss the challenges and concerns of raising two litters of hogs each year in the UP. Our focus will be on the environment, climate and production challenges with sows, weaning piglets and finishing hogs.

Casey Zangaro, MSU Extension Swine Educator

Session B

1:00-1:55 pm

B-5—JHUC 901

Biocontrol Options for Vegetable Insect Pests (RUP Credits)

Learn about the latest research and innovative methods of controlling insect pests in vegetables without insecticides. This presentation will cover biocontrol concepts including beneficial insects, traps crops and manipulating insect habitats through practices like cover cropping and conservation tillage.

Dr. Zsofia Szendrei, MSU Entomology Professor

B-6—JHUC 903

Farmer Stories from the Field: Selling to Institutions

Selling food to institutions is an opportunity that is sometimes overlooked because farmers don't know where to begin or worry they can't meet the demand or standards required. UP farmers will share their experiences and answer questions from the audience about how to start and sustain purchasing relationships with schools, hospitals, and other public institutions.

May Tsupros - MSU CRFS Director of Farm to Institution
Dan Jere, Jere Farms

B-7—JHUC 911

Cold Storage for Season Extension

Dive deeper into extending the growing season through different options for cold storage of vegetables after the outdoor season has finished. In this session we will discuss the differences between cold storage techniques at two different UP farm sites. The strengths and shortcomings of the two systems will be shared as they relate to achieving maximum storage life of crops harvested in the fall, as well as post-harvest handling techniques and crop variety considerations.

Allison Stawara, Partridge Creek Farm Manager
Sarah Hayward, MARESA Transition Program

B-8—JHUC 909

PFAS in Agriculture (RUP Credits)

This presentation will cover the basics of what PFAS chemicals are, how they impact human health, and how they cycle through the environment and make their way onto agricultural land. I will also present information about farms that have been impacted by PFAS as well as ongoing research and mitigation strategies to help farmers produce a safe product.

Katie King, MSU Center for PFAS Research Outreach Spec.

Session D

3:10-4:05 pm

D-13—JHUC 901 (RUP Credits)

Cultural and Biological Disease Management for Small Growers

Controlled growing environments can present unique disease management challenges, and growers often turn to fungicides for pathogen control in specialty crops. This talk will cover non-chemical and biological management strategies for vegetable and ornamental plant diseases in high tunnel and greenhouse settings.

John Spafford, MSU PhD Student, Hausbeck Lab

D-14—JHUC 903

Fundraising, Funding Models, and New Farm to Institution Grant Opportunities

Need some funding to help you get started with Farm to Institution sales? This session will offer an overview of different funding models, and a run-through of grants and other opportunities currently available from funding partners.

Daniel Yoder - Regional Dir., MI Small Business Dev Center
Donna LaCourt - MDARD Econ. & Comm. Dev. Specialist
RJ Archanbo - Investment Manager, MI Good Food Fund

D-15—JHUC 911

Michigan Cottage Food Law Overview

The Cottage Food Law (CFL) program supports home-based food entrepreneurs by offering guidance on CFL requirements and the food safety practices necessary to prepare and sell cottage foods. We will discuss challenges the law presents, recent changes, and new guidance on maple products. Learn the importance of food safety when preparing food in a home kitchen, labeling, and packaging food for sale.

Karen Fifield, MSU Extension Food Safety Educator

D-16—JHUC 909

Grass, Grain on Grass, or Grain Fed Beef - Any Differences?

The UP Research and Extension Center recently completed a two-year project which investigated the performance and meat quality of finishing beef cattle on grass, grass supplemented with grain, or grain fed. Come and hear about the results!

Paul Naasz, MSU UPREC Farm Manager

Bay de Noc Community College
2001 N Lincoln Rd, Escanaba, MI 49829

Directions to J. Heirman Center **Parking Lot A:**

From the North and East: From highway US 2 & 41 go west past the Travelodge Motel to the stoplight at Danforth Road. Turn right and go about 1/10 mile to first driveway on the right.

From South and West: From highway US 2 & 41 go east past KFC restaurant and under the railroad viaduct to the stoplight at Danforth Road. Turn left and go about 1/10 mile to the first driveway on the right.

Agriculture for Tomorrow Sponsors

These organizations and businesses have contributed funds to support our program:

Thank You!

Arable Solutions LLC	Marquette Food Co-op
Bay de Noc Community College	Menominee Co. Farm Bureau
Bergdahl's Inc.	Michigan AgrAbility
Chippewa County Farm Bureau	Michigan Farm Bureau
Copper Country Farm Bureau	Michigan Milk Producers Assoc.
DTE Renewable Energy Operations	Northland Lawn Sport and Equipment
Joe Blanchard Farm Bureau Insurance	Nutrien Ag Solutions, Inc.
GreenStone Farm Credit Services	Purina Animal Nutrition
Growing UP Agricultural Association	Ray's Feed Mill
Hiawathaland Farm Bureau	UPCAP Mediation Services
Iron Range Co. Farm Bureau	The North Farm at MSU-UPREC
Jilbert Dairy Inc	Twin City Seed
L&M Fleet Supply	Verbrigghe Potato Farm
Mac-Luce-Schoolcraft Farm Bureau	WE Energies

The **Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference** is brought to you by:



Upper Peninsula Research
and Extension Center
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Michigan State University
Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center
P.O. Box 168, E3774 University Drive
Chatham, MI 49816

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #77
SAULT STE MARIE, MI
49783



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Serving the Upper Peninsula Agricultural Industry

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.

U.P. Ag Connections appreciates the support of this newsletter by our advertisers, however in no way does this imply endorsement of any specific products or services.

If you do not wish to receive this publication, please contact Rene Sanderson at sande638@msu.edu or (906) 439-5114

***Follow U.P.
Agriculture on
Facebook!***

MSU Extension
Upper Peninsula Agriculture
@MSUEUPAg

and

MSU Upper Peninsula
Research & Extension Center
@MSUUPREC

ALGER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
helping you manage your natural resources

COUNTY TREE SALE

**Trees,
Berries,
Shrubs
& More**

NOW OPEN