



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

August 2024

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 28 Issue 8

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By James DeDecker

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On August 10th, we had the opportunity to host over 175 people at UPREC for an open house style event celebrating our 125th anniversary of service to UP agriculture. The event included presentations, a display of historic photos and artifacts, facility tours and a lunch featuring grass-fed beef and produce from UPREC and other local farms. Many notable partners and stakeholders attended to commemorate our quasiquintennial (125th anniversary) milestone, including those representing MSU AgBioResearch and Extension leadership, MI commodity groups, MI Farm Bureau, the Growing UP Ag Association, other Land Grant Universities and local legislators. One of the highlights was a special tribute from the State of Michigan commemorating our anniversary, presented by the office of Senator Ed McBroom and signed by Senator McBroom, State Representative Jenn Hill, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist and Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Although he was not able to attend our open house, MDARD Director Tim Boring and his staff stopped by for a conversation and tour of the facility on Aug 14th, which was a unique pleasure. For 125 years, UPREC has spearheaded research investigating the breadth of UP crops and livestock, and delivered educational programming serving generations of UP farmers and community members. We, the current staff at UPREC, are honored to be part of this deep and meaningful history, and are especially thankful for all of the partners and community members that make our work possible!

Now that the party is over, we want to make everyone aware of an opportunity to share your thoughts about what the next 125 years at UPREC should look like. Over the next few months, we are gathering input from stakeholders to inform development of an updated strategic plan. Your ideas can be shared in two steps/formats, a survey and listening sessions, and we invite you to participate in one or both! The short, twelve-question survey asks you to define current priorities for UP agriculture and consider how UPREC and MSU Extension can respond by adjusting our portfolio of research and outreach programs within the constraints of our perceived institutional strengths and weaknesses. Survey responses will not be associated with any individual and your participation is entirely voluntary. MSU Extension will then facilitate three public and one internal (staff only) in-person listening session across the UP this fall to gather more detailed and nuanced feedback. There will also be an additional online listening session offered, if you would prefer to contribute remotely. A meal will be served at all in-person sessions and there is no cost to attend! However, pre-registration is required.

Our goal is to make UPREC as valuable as possible to all stakeholders, with hope that our next 125 years will be as meaningful as the last. Details on how to participate in our strategic planning survey and listening sessions can be found on the next page of this issue.



Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center Strategic Plan

Please do both if you are able!
And please pass this invitation on to others you think may be interested!

Take the survey!

As an UPREC stakeholder, please take the short survey to help us design our strategic planning process. Responses will be used to shape next steps and design a process that will help UPREC be as valuable as possible to all stakeholders. Responses will not be associated with any individual and your participation is voluntary.

Take the survey at
<https://tinyurl.com/4tefse9x>
or use the QR code:



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Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact [insert name] two weeks before the start of the event [insert deadline date] at [insert phone number and email]. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Join a listening session!

MSU Extension will be facilitating three in-person sessions across the UP this fall, and there will be an online option as well if you would prefer to contribute that way. Please register for the session that is most convenient for you! A meal will be served at all in-person sessions, there is no cost to attend!

September 11, 2024, Eastern UP
6-8pm Eastern Time, Rudyard Township Hall
18725 S Mackinac Trail, Rudyard, MI 49780

September 17, 2024, Western UP
6-8pm Eastern Time, Bruce Crossing, Twilly's Sports Bar and Grill
13909 US-45, Bruce Crossing, MI 49912

September 23, 2024, Central UP
6-8pm Eastern Time, UPREC
E3774 University Dr, Chatham, MI 49816

October 7, 2024, Virtual Online
6-8pm Eastern Time, Zoom

Register for a session at
events.anr.msu.edu/uprecplanning
or use the QR code:



Greetings Gardeners,

Are you interested in the next MSU Extension Foundations of Gardening (FOG) course? FOG is the horticulture course for both those wishing to apply to our MSU Extension Master Gardener Program® and those seeking horticultural training for personal reasons.

Registration for the Foundations of Gardening (FOG) is open July 10, 2024- August 24, 2024. Registration is available on the FOG website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/foundations-of-gardening> . Classes begin September 10, 2024, with a practice session.

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Pasture Walk – Western UP

By Frank Wardynski

Frank Wardynski will be hosting a pasture walk scheduled for October 5, at 10:00am ET until about noon or maybe a little longer. Location, 18360 Firesteel Rd, Ontonagon, MI 49953.

My plan for the morning is to talk about new grazing practices I have been using this year. I am implementing practices I learned at a Soil Health Academy that discusses management for regenerative agriculture. We will discuss both the grazing practices along with the tools and methods used to evaluate soil health. We will be looking at soil dug up with a spade and water infiltration and comparing various grazing practices. There are challenges and drawbacks to these grazing practices. We will discuss those as well. Lunch to follow.

MPIC and MSU U.P. Potato Field Day

- 4:00 pm **Welcome**
James DeDecker, MSU-UPREC
- 4:15 pm **Michigan Potato Industry Update**
Kelly Turner, Executive Director,
Michigan Potato Industry Commission
- 4:30 pm **Seed Industry Update**
Damen Kurzer, Executive Director,
Michigan Seed Potato Association
- 4:45 pm **Variety Trial Update**
Chris Long, Potato Specialist, MSU
- 5:15 pm **Local Research Update**
James DeDecker, MSU-UPREC
- 5:30 pm **MSU Potato Research Updates**
Ray Rantz, CPB Management
Hannah Johnson, Weed Management
- 6:00 pm **Dinner**
Sponsored by: 
- 7:00 pm **Adjourn**



Tuesday, August 27th
4:00p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Vandamme Farms
2371 St Nicholas Rd.
Rock, MI 49880

To register, or for more information,
contact MSU UPREC at (906) 439-5114

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Marquette Conservation Stewards Program

Become a certified Conservation Steward through MSU Extension!

Participants will spend 8 weeks learning the conservation principles necessary for the protection of Michigan ecosystems, with instruction from local experts every step of the way. Upon completion, participants are awarded a MSU Conservation Steward Certificate. This is a great opportunity if you're pursuing a career in natural resources, passionate about the outdoors, or just looking to learn something new in a supportive environment. No previous experience or knowledge is required. For more information: visit www.canr.msu.edu/csp or contact Anna Ellis, ellisan9@msu.edu

Registration ends August 25
 Cost: \$250
 Scholarships available to all!
 More information can be found at www.canr.msu.edu/csp



Evening classes will be held on Wednesday nights in Marquette from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.

Week 1	Sept. 11	Foundations of Conservation with Lake to Lake CISMA
Field Day #1	Sept. 14 (Saturday)	Wetland Ecology Field Trip
Week 2	Sept. 18	Society, Heritage, and Conservation with USDA Conservation Scientists
Field Trip #2	Sept. 21 (Saturday)	Exploring UP Hardwood Forest Ecology with MSU
Week 3	Sept. 25	Lakes with MI Sea Grant
Week 4	Oct. 2	Streams with Trout Unlimited
Week 5	Oct. 9	Wetlands with NMU Biology
Week 6	Oct. 16	Forests with Marquette Conservation District
Week 7	Oct. 23	Grasslands with MI DNR Wildlife
BREAK	Oct. 30 & Nov. 6	NO CLASSES
Final week	Nov. 13 th	Barrel and Beam Celebration



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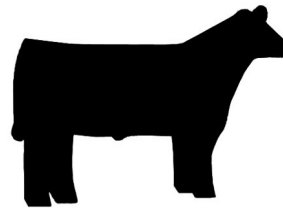
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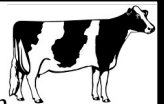
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Robert Filhart, Owner (989)330-6005

Haley Filhart, Owner (989)430-2055

Classifieds

For Sale: Red Angus Bull , 1 1/2 year old, Great bloodline,
good disposition, 1832#. Call Don Nault 906-786-3951 Or Cell
906-398-9865

Wanted: Pasture for 25-35 cow calf pairs for the summer of
2024 in the Eastern UP. Will consider a custom grazing
arrangement as well. Call Ben (989) 370-3570.

Straw for Sale: Small squares or 4x5 Large round bales. Call
Paul at MSU 906-439-5114 Ext. 2

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: small square bales of straw and small squares of
first crop hay. Call Marenger's Farm (906)384-6587.

FOR SALE: Mixed Hay round bales, 700#, \$20. Call Alan or
Karen Raynard @ (906) 647-6697, Pickford.

Market Report

Choice Steers	\$170-\$203 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$130-\$179 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$63-\$71 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$180-\$236 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$125-\$160 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$500-\$650 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$200-\$330 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows top \$2200/head

Grade Holstein bred heifers top \$2150/head

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			

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Q&A 7:35 - 8:00
April - September 2024

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