

# MSU Extension Crops Newsletter for Northwest Michigan

February 2018

Dear Northwest Michigan Field Crop Producer,

The groundhog said six more weeks of winter. If only we could be so lucky here in Northern Michigan! But eventually spring will come. Most farm commodities are lack luster at best looking into the growing season of 2018. The one exception is the hay market as supplies have gotten very short this winter and prices have rallied. Check out my enclosed hay market report for details. If the grain markets can at least hold their current price there can be some profitability if you can achieve above average yields in this growing year.

As always we have a number of upcoming winter meetings to update you on the latest trends and to help your farm advance those yields and maybe discover profitability even in this lack luster year. Check them out inside.

Here is to a safe and prosperous 2018!

Jerry Lindquist



MSU Grazing & Field Crop Educator

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## Making Seed Purchases This Winter - Check out the MSU Varietal Trials

For un-biased test plot comparisons of varieties of dry beans, corn, grasses, soybeans, and wheat go to the MSU Field Crops Varietal Trials at <http://www.varietytials.msu.edu/>. And for forage varieties go to <https://forage.msu.edu/> If for example you have to buy seed corn and trying to decide which varieties are the best for your farm, the MSU Corn Varieties Compared should be the first document you turn to. Each crop has a different publication with 2017 results loaded with yield results for grain, forage and corn silage from across the State of Michigan. These publications also have agronomic recommendations for the specific crops to make sure you are following the latest recommendations.



**Jerry L. Lindquist**  
MSU Extension Grazing  
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Economic Development  
Family Nutrition Program

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tus.*

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



# Michigan hay supplies tighten and prices increase

Hay stocks in Michigan are down 16.7 percent according to USDA Crop Reports and many Midwest states realized similar declines.

Hay supplies in Michigan have definitely decreased in the last six months. Going into the 2017 summer season, the growing first cutting hay crop looked good and the carry-over from a second mild winter on farms had many feeling they should have plenty of forage. Granted hundreds of semitrailer loads of hay left the state in March to aid the ranches in the Western Plains States that were devastated by wild fires, but that hay was a very small dent in Michigan's supply. More donated hay left Michigan in July to support drought stricken ranches in the Dakotas leaving what appeared to be a still plentiful forage supply. But by mid-summer, weather patterns had divided the state of Michigan into two extremes with Central and Southern Michigan turning bone dry and the tip of the Northern Lower Peninsula and the Eastern Upper Peninsula being too wet. Both of these weather patterns made it difficult or nearly impossible to harvest dry hay. With most pastures in the south running out of forage in late summer, many pasturing livestock operations began feeding hay much earlier than planned. The eastern end of the Upper Peninsula had standing water in first cutting hay crops into mid-summer delaying harvest and in many cases causing mowed crops to rot in the field. Yields were 40 to 60 percent lower for the year in that Eastern Upper Peninsula region which is a significant hay producing region in Michigan. These weather events, compounded by the lower total hay acres in Michigan that had occurred over the last five years, have taken away the large hay surplus in rapid fashion.

According to USDA surveys of farms conducted on December 1, 2017, hay stocks in Michigan were down 16.7 percent from the previous year. Many Midwest States have experienced similar declines with Wisconsin being down 17.2 percent, Iowa down 14 percent, South Dakota down 10.8 percent and North Dakota down 28.7 percent. Across the United States, total hay stocks are 10 percent lower than 2016 and are almost as low as what they were in the drought year of 2012. The states to our south may have more hay available as Ohio hay stocks are up 18.7 percent and Indiana stocks are up 35.4 percent.

Hay can still be found in Michigan but it may not be as easy to locate, it may be a further distance to transport and it obviously will cost more than it did at last year's prediction from MSU Extension forage experts. Also with the wet conditions in the Upper Peninsula, the quality of some hays will not be quite as good as those conditions led to over-mature, late harvested hay that may also be dusty and moldy.

## Michigan hay supplies tighten and prices increase (Continue)

Hay prices have been gradually moving higher as demand grows and knowledge of the short hay supply became known. The big movers were the low quality grass and legume mixed round baled hays that were selling for as low as \$65 to \$85 per ton in mid-summer. They now have moved up to \$90 to \$115 per ton. Most mid quality alfalfa and alfalfa/grass hays are selling for \$120 to \$150 per ton depending upon their quality and the type of bale package. The high quality alfalfa hays are selling for \$150 to \$200 per ton on average. These prices may move higher over the next few months depending upon the severity of the winter weather, since livestock in colder temperatures eat more hay, and upon how many farms are still in need of extra hay.

These prices may hold because the corn silage harvest was sufficient in most areas, grain prices are relatively low and can offset some of the hay in the ration and because livestock and dairy farm profits are low to non-existent and trimming the feed budget is a goal of many.

For those wishing to buy or sell hay the Michigan Hay Sellers List is available free of charge at <http://web2.canr.msu.edu/hay/>. It is an internet listing of those with hay for sale in the state of Michigan.

For more information, you may contact Jerry Lindquist, MSU Extension Grazing and Field Crop Educator at [lindquis@msu.edu](mailto:lindquis@msu.edu), or 231-832-6139, or Phil Kaatz, MSU Extension Forage Educator at 810-667-0341 or at [kaatz@msu.edu](mailto:kaatz@msu.edu).

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).



# Irrigated Field Crops Update

Falmouth Community Center  
219 E. Prosper Rd  
Falmouth, MI 49632

Friday, February 9, 2018  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

RSVP to Farm Services Inc.  
at 989-352-8411

The meeting will earn participants a phase 1 credit Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). Application has been made for three (3) Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) credits, two (2) Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Soil & Water Management credits, and a 0.5 CCA Crop Management credit.

8:30 a.m. - Welcome

9:00 a.m.

- **Irrigation Scheduling** (Steve Miller/Lyndon Kelley)
  - ◊ Checkbook Irrigation Scheduling
  - ◊ Soil Moisture Monitoring
  - ◊ Interpreting and integrating results
- **Michigan Water Policy and Irrigation Implications** (Steve Miller/Lyndon Kelley)
  - ◊ Michigan riparian doctrine, water rights conflicts
  - ◊ Michigan Large Volume Water Withdrawal (LQW) Registration and reporting system
  - ◊ Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool and site-specific review process
  - ◊ Unregistered (LQWW) - new opportunities
- **Using Irrigation for Fertilizer and Chemical Application** (Steve Miller/Lyndon Kelley)
  - ◊ Chemigation equipment, backflow and required safety equipment
  - ◊ Irrigation for germination and incorporating chemicals

10:30 - Break

10:45 a.m.

- **Irrigated Crop Management** (Bruce MacKellar or local field crops educator)
  - ◊ Achieving adequate stands and hybrid selection in irrigated or highly productive corn
  - ◊ Managing Nitrogen, Sulfur, Phosphorus and Potassium in irrigated soils
  - ◊ Emerging Pest Problems

Irrigators, crop consultants, irrigation industry professionals and agricultural agency personnel can all benefit from this program.

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# Field Crops Webinar Series

Monday Evenings, February 19th - March 26th, 2018  
Live Online

Growers, consultants and agribusiness professionals are invited to participate in a series of six online programs addressing field crop production and pest management in 2018. Participants will learn how to enhance their corn, soybean, small grain and forage production systems in the coming season, and have an opportunity to ask questions of MSU agriculture experts. These live webinar programs can be viewed independently online. Registration is \$20.00 for the full series of six webinars or \$5.00 per individual webinar session. One MDARD Pesticide Recertification Credit will be available through each event for application to one of the following categories: Private Core, Commercial Core, or Field Crops.

**All programs will be held Monday evenings 7pm-8pm ET**

### **February 19<sup>th</sup>**

- ◊ Conservation Drainage  
Dr. Ehsan Ghane, MSU

### **February 26<sup>th</sup>**

- ◊ Managing Nematodes in Corn and Soy  
Dr. Marisol Quintanilla, MSU

### **March 5<sup>th</sup>**

- ◊ Interseeding Alfalfa Into Silage Corn  
Drs. Erin Burns & Kim Cassida, MSU

### **March 12<sup>th</sup>**

- ◊ Controlling Troublesome Weeds  
Dr. Christy Sprague, MSU

### **March 19<sup>th</sup>**

- ◊ Mitigating Control Failures in Bt Corn  
Dr. Chris DiFonzo, MSU

### **March 26<sup>th</sup>**

- ◊ Corn Hybrid & Soy Variety Selection  
Dr. Manni Singh, MSU

Visit [events.anr.msu.edu/FieldCropsWebinarSeries2018](http://events.anr.msu.edu/FieldCropsWebinarSeries2018)  
to register and access connection information.

Contact James DeDecker at (989) 734-2168 or [dedecke5@msu.edu](mailto:dedecke5@msu.edu) for more information,  
or by February 5th, 2018 to request accommodations for persons with disabilities.

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# Grass Fed Beef School

To Register by February 23, 2018 visit  
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/MSUGrassFedBeefSchool/>

### DATE & TIME:

Feb. 26-27, 2018  
Day 1: Registration 8:30-9:00  
School 9:00 - 5:30  
Day 2: 8:30-4:00

### LOCATION:

Kettunen Center  
14907 4H Drive  
Tustin, MI 49688

### SPEAKERS:

**Dr. Allen Williams**  
(via Zoom)  
President of LMC, founder of  
Grass Fed Beef, LLC.  
**Dr. Kim Cassida**  
Forage Specialist  
**Dr. Jason Rowntree**  
MSU Beef Specialist  
**Doug Carmichael**  
MSU LC Manager  
**Blaine Hitzfield**  
(via Zoom)  
Seven Sons, Marketing &  
Distribution  
**MSU Educators**  
**Jeannine Schwehofer**  
Meat Quality Educator  
**Jerry Lindquist**  
Grazing Educator  
**Kable Thurlow**  
Beef Educator  
**Frank Wardynski**  
Beef Educator  
**Kevin Gould**  
Beef Educator  
**Paul Gross**  
Field Crops Educator



### Highlighted Topics:

What is Grass Finishing and Grass-Finished Beef & How is it different.  
The Grassfed Beef Industry in 2018 and Beyond.  
Benefits of Grassfed Beef  
MSU Research Results on Grassfed Beef  
Lesson Learned on Grassfed Beef  
Proper Soil Fertility and How to get it.  
Grazing Methods.  
Forages and Feeding Strategies.  
Carcass Merit & Meat Quality  
Experiences in Marketing Grassfed Beef  
Producer Panel Discussion on Marketing Grassfed Beef in Michigan

You can see and download the whole agenda when you click on the link to register. Please note that the registration deadline is February 23, 2018.

Overnight lodging is available at  
Kettunen Center. 231-829-3421 or [www.kettunencenter.org](http://www.kettunencenter.org) or  
The Cadillac area [www.cadillacmichigan.com](http://www.cadillacmichigan.com)

If you have questions about the School or need special accommodations, please call Kable or Jenny at 989-426-7741

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# RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE REVIEW AND EXAM

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 28, 2018

- 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Pesticide Update & Exam Review offered by MSU Extension worth 3 pesticide re-certification credits
- 1:00 p.m. - Restricted Use Pesticide Exam offered by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

**WHERE:** Wexford County MSU Extension, 401 N. Lake St., Cadillac, MI. 49601

The review is for those wishing to receive final training before the exam or for those wishing to receive pesticide re-certification credits. The review is worth 3 credits. You do not have to attend the review to take the exam. The exam is for those wishing to become certified to purchase restricted use pesticides or who need to re-certify.

For the exam: You must bring a photo ID (driver's license).

Bring a #2 pencil and an ink pen.

Bring your registration paperwork received in the mail from Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) if renewing.

Make check/money orders payable to "State of Michigan". Cash or credit/debit cards are not accepted.

If retaking an exam that you failed you must bring receipt of payment from the previous exam session.

Calculators if needed will be available from the exam proctor. Personal calculators or cell phone calculators are not allowed.

**Cost:** For the Exam -\$50 for private applicators (farmers); \$75 for commercial applicators (cash is not accepted). There is no charge to attend the review. A pizza luncheon will be provided at the end of the review.

**Registration:** Please register for these two events by either:

1.) contacting Jerry Lindquist 231-832-6139 or at [lindquis@anr.msu.edu](mailto:lindquis@anr.msu.edu) or Jill O'Donnell 231-779-9480 or at [odon-ne10@anr.msu.edu](mailto:odon-ne10@anr.msu.edu)

or

2.) registering on-line for the exam only at [www.michigan.gov/pestexam](http://www.michigan.gov/pestexam)

Exams are also offered at various times and locations around the State. For the complete list of exams go to [www.michigan.gov/pestexam](http://www.michigan.gov/pestexam).

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Jill O'Donnell at 231-779-9480 by Feb 23, 2018 to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.

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## Shining a Light on Agricultural Solar Energy Development

Programs sponsored by:



### LOCATIONS & DATES:

Powers, MI – March 7

Traverse City – March 8

Big Rapids – March 13

Frankenmuth – March 14

Tecumseh – March 15  
(10:30am-3:00pm)

Ionia – March 21

Three Rivers – March 22

### TIME:

10:00am - 2:30pm

(\*\*Tecumseh: 10:30am-3:00pm\*\*)

### COST:

\$20 / person, includes lunch  
and handouts

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Agribusiness owners,  
interested citizens, public  
officials, renewable energy  
representatives, etc.



Photo by Michael Mees (cropped)  
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### DESCRIPTION:

In Michigan, solar energy developers are actively contacting farm owners in an effort to secure land for solar energy projects. The driving force behind this flurry of activity is the 7 cent per kilowatt/hour increase in the avoidance cost recently approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission. This recent development, along with declining costs of solar panels and other equipment over a period of years, has improved the balance sheet for new solar energy projects in Michigan.

In an effort to help farmers understand the renewable energy landscape, nuances of solar leases, zoning considerations, and accompanying tax implications, MSU Extension and Michigan Farm Bureau are holding programs for farmers at various locations statewide. MSU Extension staff with lease agreement, tax, and zoning expertise will provide the educational content. Farmers who participate in the programs will leave with valuable, practical knowledge they can use to determine if a solar lease agreement is a sound decision for themselves and their community. The program will cover:

- The Context for Solar Energy Development on Michigan Farmland
- A Community Vision for Solar Energy Systems
- Zoning Approaches for Solar Energy
- Siting Considerations for Utility-Scale Solar
- Integrating Solar with Existing Ag Systems
- Understanding Solar Energy Lease Agreements
- Taxation Guidance including Impact on PA 116

**HOW TO REGISTER:** Registration is required by March 4, 2018 at  
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/shine>

**CONTACT:** Charles Gould at 616-994-4547 or [gouldm@msu.edu](mailto:gouldm@msu.edu)

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

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Join forage producers, graziers, custom forage harvesters, agribusinesses, MSU Extension Specialists and Educators for this annual conference and trade show.

All women & men veterans are welcome & encouraged to attend this event.

Sponsored by the Michigan Forage Council, NC SARE and Michigan State University Extension.



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Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling the local extension office one week prior to the event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements.

To register go online to:  
MSU Events Management

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/2018GLFGC/>

Pre-registration deadline is

Friday, March 2, 2018

All late registrations can register at the door.

If you do not have internet call:

Lapeer MSU Extension

1800 Imlay City Rd.

Lapeer, MI 48446

Phone: 810-667-0341

Fax: 810-667-0355

Attention: Tina House

Email: [housel@anr.msu.edu](mailto:housel@anr.msu.edu)

## Growing High Quality Forages

### Great Lakes Forage & Grazing Conference

March 7, 2018

Wednesday

AgroLiquid

3055 W. M-21

St. Johns, MI 48879

(1.5 miles W. of Old 127)

9:00 A.M. -- 4:00 P.M.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Gary Zimmer**  
**Midwestern BioAg**

Gary Zimmer is the founder and Chief Visionary Officer of Midwestern BioAg, headquartered in Madison, WI.

Known as the “father” of biological agriculture, Zimmer is an internationally known author, speaker, and consultant. He owns Otter Creek Organic Farm, a family-operated, award-winning 1,000 acre farm near Lone Rock, WI, and has been on the board of Talliesin Preservation Inc. since 2011.

Zimmer is the author of three books, *The Biological Farmer* (Second Edition), *The Biological Farmer and Advancing Biological Farming*, and numerous articles on soils and livestock nutrition.

Zimmer holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master’s degree in Dairy Nutrition from the University of Hawaii.

**Conference Agenda:**

9:00 - 9:30 Registration

10:00 **Keynote Speaker: Gary Zimmer**  
 “Soil Fertility & Nutrients for Top Quality Forages”

11:00 **Forage Spokesperson Contest**

A showcase of Michigan forage producers vying for the opportunity to represent Michigan at the 2019 AFGC Conference.

Noon - Lunch

12:30 **Michigan Forage Council Annual Meeting**

1:00 **Keynote Speaker: Gary Zimmer**  
 “Producing & Feeding Top Quality Forages”

1:45 - 2:30 **Tradeshow Break**

**Afternoon Concurrent Sessions:**

**Forage Production Sessions:**

♦ 2:30 **Forage Research Update**  
 Dr. Kim Cassida, MSU

♦ 3:15 **Alfalfa Irrigation Management**  
 Gary Carmichael, “The Hay Guy”

**Grazing Management Sessions:**

♦ 2:30 **MSU Lake City Grazing Update**  
 Dr. Jason Rowntree

♦ 3:15 **Woodland Grazing—It Really Can Work** - MSU Extension & Cornell University

♦ 4:00 **Adjourn**

**Registration:**

**Registration Information:**

Michigan Forage Council members: \$45.00  
 Non-members: \$55.00  
 Students: \$20.00

At the door registration **ADD \$10.00.**  
 (Lunch not guaranteed)

**Pre-registration deadline March 2, 2018**  
 (covers all sessions, lunch, and breaks)

**To register go to:**

MSU ANR Events Management  
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/2018GLFGC/>

**Early registration deadline:**

**Friday, March 2, 2018**

(Those without Internet call  
**Lapeer MSU Extension**)

**After March 2 all registrations will be at the door.**

Accommodations for persons with disabilities or special diet restrictions may be requested by contacting the event contact two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

**For questions about registration call:**  
**Lapeer County MSU Extension**  
**Attention: Tina House**  
**Phone: 810-667-0341**