



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

April 2017

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 21 Issue 4

In this issue:

- Page 2
Animal Burial Options

- Page 3
Bull Soundness Exams
Produce Safety Training

- Page 4
Kiwanis Home & Garden Show

- Page 5
Determining cattle
deworming treatment
through sampling
Beef education programs

- Page 6
GUPAA Annual Meeting
Teacher Forestry Workshops
Cottage Food Law Workshops

- Page 7
Market Report
Classifieds
North Farm Short Courses

- Page 8
Calendar of events

Follow the farm on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
MSU.UPREC/](http://www.facebook.com/MSU.UPREC/)

I'm struggling this late winter/into early spring with an outlook of optimism vs pessimism. I try to stay optimistic in the face of challenges. But we are currently looking at a forecast of continued challenging times in agriculture. Market prices have been challenging for most of the major agricultural commodities across the county and here in the UP.

Beef prices have dropped by 25% each of the last two years. The drop in prices is coming after an unprecedented increase to historic highs. We are actually back to market prices that are near where we were three years ago. Brenda Boetel, ag economist from the UW River Falls was the guest speaker at our statewide beef cow-calf meetings this winter. She's predicting a modest decrease of beef prices over the next couple years as the beef cow herd population stabilizes. Milk prices have seen very modest improvement this last year, but we haven't seen depressed milk prices like this, for this long, in quite some time.

The weather is always a concern. This winter has been weird and wild. Streaks of cold and heavy snow, followed by mild weather, going back and forth. Here in the western UP, the ground is near bare and frozen. I don't ever remember a spring thaw without a long fight with the mud. We're used to mud season as we transition from winter into spring. Today dust was rolling behind my truck on the gravel roads. Are we about to have an early spring allowing us to get in the fields early, or is this the beginning of a dry summer?

Optimist or pessimist, regardless of our outlook, we need to be prepared to protect ourselves from risk. Market risk, production risk, and finance risk covers most of it. It's easy to forget about risk protection when things are going so well. Back in 2014 nobody was worried about beef cattle prices dropping. Calves were bringing \$2-3/lb, Holstein calves were over \$500 and even cull cows were selling for more than a dollar. Price protection was easy then. However, locking in profitable prices are pretty tough now. It's even tougher for small beef producers. I am currently working on putting together a price protection educational program for beef farmers. It's not easy but the opportunities are out there.

We need to think about production risk. It's probably too early to be worried about a drought this summer, but it's not too early to start thinking about our drought management strategies. We should be strategizing about where we are going to find more feed. Maybe picking up some more hay fields or asking if there are some crops I should be considering in the crop rotation that I could plant to give decent yields and are drought tolerant as we think about reseeding some hay fields.

I also want to address financial risk. This is different than price risk. I'm always concerned about the financial livelihood of farmers during tough times. I think about questions like how is your debt structured or how much total debt you have. Looking at the balance sheet, are you in good position with debt to asset ratios? Does cash flow look good? It's easy to say now, but we need to use the good times to get the business in position to weather the hard times. Pay down debt. Build working capital. I've started working in the farm business management area and have had some rewarding experiences since starting the first of the year. I would like to offer an invitation to anyone interested to have me come talk specifically about financial management.

As spring comes upon us and we get started on field activities I ask that you all stay safe. That's what risk management is all about, staying safe. Keep your business, loved ones, employees and yours safe. ~ Frank Wardynski

Michigan State University

AgBioResearch

MDARD Reminder of Animal Burial Options

For those of us in the business of raising livestock, we understand that the death of an animal can have a significant impact; however, we also understand that we have a responsibility to protect our environment, our livestock, our neighbors, and ourselves. That is why it is important to be aware of your disposal options.

Proper burial of livestock is critical to your farm, family and community. Improperly buried animals can attract neighborhood dogs or local wildlife, which can cause any number of problems for you or your neighbors. It also can potentially contaminate drinking water, lakes and streams.

There are a number of options for disposing of deceased animals (all regulated by state law)—composting, rendering, or burning—but most of the time, burial is the most practical option. When considering burial, it's important that wildlife and other animals do not have contact with the animal carcass. Feeding on dead animals that are diseased or have been chemically euthanized can be harmful to them and can spread disease. You may also be putting your herd's safety at risk, because improperly buried livestock can attract dangerous predators.

When burying livestock in Michigan:

- Remains must be buried within 24 hours
- Remains must be buried at least two feet deep
- Remains must not be discarded or submerged in bodies of water or buried within 200 feet of a well
- A minimum of two and a half feet is required between each burial site and no more than 100 individual burying sites per acre
- Animal weight cannot surpass 10,000 pounds per acre

Because of these regulations, animal remains cannot be used as bait.

At times, a common burial site, or pit, may be used for multiple animals. In this case, the following laws are applicable.

- The site cannot be open for more than 30 days
- A minimum of one foot of soil must be placed within 24 hours of each new animal addition
- A minimum of two feet of soil must be used to close the site
- There must be at least 100 feet between common burial sites
- Animal weight cannot surpass 5000 pounds per acre

In all types of burial, the landowner must approve the use of their property. Additionally, it's possible that your village, township, city or county may have additional restrictions for burial, contacting your local government officials is essential.

If a person suspects that dead animals are not being disposed of properly, they are advised to contact local law enforcement. Local law officers, animal control and conservation officers may enforce state regulations on animal burial.

For more information on the regulations around animal disposal, visit the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's website. Or, if you have additional questions, please call us at 800-292-3939.

SMC

Stephenson Marketing Cooperative

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

Stephenson, MI (800) 445-6167	Powers, MI (800) 962-3008
Oconto, WI (920) 834-4500	Aurora, WI (800) 962-3007

EQUITY

Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association

WAUKON, IOWA
Feeder Sales Schedule

• 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

(563) 568-4501
www.equitycoop.com



Stephenson FFA Alumni Consignment Auction

Sunday, May 7th
Noon

Held at former Machalk's Fence River Road, Stephenson, MI

For more information:
Barry Wehner (906) 753-4192
Donna Buechler (906) 753-4146

Updates regarding the annual Bull Soundness Exams!

It is time to start thinking about scheduling your bull for a breeding soundness exam to ensure he is READY for the upcoming breeding season.

During the last 5 years of testing by Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, 19.4% of bulls tested have not passed their BSE. Open cows mean lost income. Feeding bulls that are not performing is a waste of money. Some producers have been lucky and have not had issues with infertile bulls. But those with non-performing bulls have learned the hard way that they lose profit.

Dr. Renee Coyer of Thompson Veterinary Clinic will be taking over the breeding soundness examination program from MSU-CVM. She will be available to test all bulls previously tested by MSU-CVM across the U.P. She is willing to continue doing testing (\$60/bull) at group gatherings where the farm call can be shared or privately at an individual's farm with appropriate handling facilities. Please call early to reserve a farm call date.

Thompson Vet Clinic 906.341.2813

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

April 6th Marquette, MI

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL ONLINE:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/2017Springgrowerproducesafety/>
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires, 'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.

The course will provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. After attending the entire course, participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that verifies they have completed the training course. To receive an AFDO certificate, a participant must be present for the entire training and submit the appropriate paperwork to their trainer at the end of the course. Additional Grower Produce Safety Training sessions will be scheduled in the fall, as well as, in future years. Consult the MSU Extension website, www.msue.msu.edu, or subscribe to the MSU Extension Newsletter for event announcements.

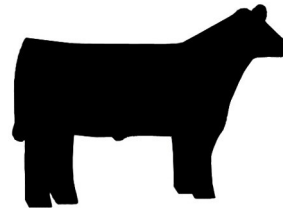
REGISTERED MAINE ANJOU AND ANGUS

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



Skidders

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

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

United

Producers, Inc.

Farmer owned. Farmer values.

St. Louis Sale every Monday
Marion Dairy Sale 3rd Friday of each month
For dairy cattle, call Chad @ (517) 294-3484 or
Paul @ (614) 296-5038
Collection point in Escanaba
Call for more information (989) 681-2191

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

Smart Soils, Smart for Pollinators, and Smart Plants key themes at this year's Michigan State University Extension Smart Gardening booth at the Kiwanis Noon Home & Garden Show/Pancake Feed in Escanaba

Plan now to attend this year's free smart gardening presentations held throughout the Kiwanis Noon Home & Garden Show/Pancake Feed on April 7th through 9th in the Ruth Butler Building on the UP fairgrounds. Show times run from 5-8 p.m. Friday, 9-7 p.m. Saturday, and 9-2 p.m. Sunday. From beneficial insects, bees, plants, soils, square foot gardening, and season extensions there is something for all gardeners to enjoy. New this year will be a few sessions tailored especially for families and children: April 8th at 1 p.m. an activity about bees and at 5 p.m. gardening with children. All sessions will again have garden-themed door prizes available to be won by anyone attending the presentations. Some examples include free plants, tools, gift certificates, and local food/wine gift baskets. Some items, such as a power tool kit, tool sharpening kits, splitting tools, and a drip irrigation kit will be on display for a silent auction until noon, Sunday, April 9th.

The presentation schedule is as follows:

Friday, April 7th

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Marvelous Mimics – natural insect enemies & our allies

5:45 - 6:15 p.m. UP Beekeeping

7:30 – 8:00 p.m. Smart Plants with *Hydrangea paniculata* 'RENhy'

Vanilla Strawberry

Saturday, April 8th

9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Don't guess – soil test!

11:00 – 11:45 a.m. Trash to Treasure – Recycling items for creative containers

1:00 – 1:45 p.m. Help a Bee, help me! – a family, kid friendly activity about pollinators

3:00 – 3:45 p.m. UP Beekeeping

5:00 – 5:45 p.m. Starting small – easy steps to start gardening with children

6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Wonderfully wild & Naturally native – ways to support and protect our natural insect allies

Sunday, April 9th

9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping

11:00 – 11:45 a.m. Season Extension – hoopouses

1:00 – 1:45 p.m. Square Foot Gardening

For a full list of presentations and door prizes from many business contributors, please visit the Michigan State University website at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/smart_gardening_presentations_escanaba_home_garden_show or the Escanaba Noon Kiwanis website at: <http://escanabakiwanis.org/> under Club Events. No registration is required. Admittance to the home and garden show is free, and pancake feed tickets are available to help support the Kiwanis. For more information about the smart gardening program, you can contact Rebecca Krans, Michigan State University Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator, at 906-875-0606 or kransr@anr.msu.edu.



Marquette, MI
(800) 427-0980
(906) 225-1363

Buying top quality milk to produce the U.P.'s finest dairy products.

Are you getting the most for your quality?



President: Bruce Berkompas

Secretary: Mary Robertson

Your source for Polled Genetics

Richlo Dairy Farms

Engadine, MI

Polled Holstein, Jersey & Norwegian Red Bulls available!

Employment Opportunities!

For all information on polled bulls in AI, call Jonathan (906) 477-6505

Northern Michigan Livestock

Gaylord, MI—I-75 (Exit 282), 2 miles west on M-32 to N Townline Road, go 2 miles North to Sale Yard

2017 Spring Feeder Cattle Sales

All Sales are on Fridays @ 12 pm

April 7th April 21st May 12th

Preconditioned cattle will be sold first on April 21st, proof required

- Pre-conditioning program strongly recommended
- All feeders must meet proper TB & ID requirements
- Request cattle be brought in the day before sale
- Bred cattle & breeding bulls may be sold at sales
- Steers in question will be sold as bulls

Sale Barn Telephone (989) 732-5732

Frank or Jan Leist—Telephone (231) 439-5679

See us on our website:

www.northernmichiganlivestock.com

Determine Cattle Deworming Treatment based on Fecal Sample Test

By Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension Livestock Educator

Fecal Egg Count (FEC) has been shown to be an effective tool in determining if cattle should be dewormed at the beginning of the grazing season. Farmers that utilize FEC can feel confident they are making good decisions regarding their worming practices.

Cattle with low egg counts do not need to be treated. Treating animals with low FEC results in money spent on deworming products with no significant improvement in animal performance. In addition, treating animals with low egg levels can lead to anthelmintic resistance. Conversely, treating animals with high FEC will offer cost effective improvement of animal performance.

During 2016, Michigan State University Extension

Educators Frank Wardynski and Kable Thurlow conducted a state wide testing program for beef cattle. Early results of the testing program indicate that many cows exhibit low FEC and do not require treatment. Many mature beef cows have developed immunity to internal parasites. However, younger cattle to include weaned beef calves and replacement heifers exhibited higher FEC and are more likely to benefit from treatment according to last year's data.

Testing manure to determine if deworming treatment has proven to be cost effective. The testing program will continue through 2017. The lab analysis is free to cooperative producers. The only cost to producers is the expense of shipping the samples. Protocols are already developed and can be sent out immediately.

To enroll in the testing program contact MSU Beef Extension Educator, Frank Wardynski, at 906-884-4386 or wardynsk@anr.msu.edu.



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



Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association

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

(906) 863-8123

www.equitycoop.com

Ray's Feed Mill

Ration & Crop
Consultants
Feed • Seed • Fertilizer



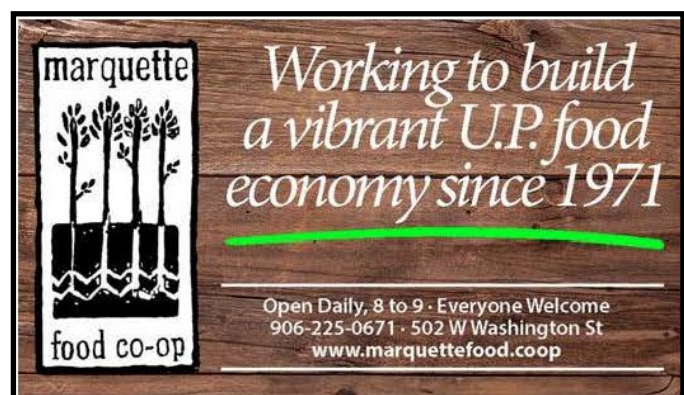
(800) 832-1822 or (906) 466-2231
Bark River & Norway

Beef Educational Programs

By Frank Wardynski

Michigan State University Extension educators Frank Wardynski and Monica Jean will be conducting educational beef meetings covering topics of Bull and Heifer Selection, Culling Cows, improve Profit by Increasing Revenue and Decreasing Expenses. Meetings will be conducted at the Greenland Township Hall in Mass City on April 17, and at the Rudyard Township Hall on April 20. Each session will start at 6:30 with an expected ending time of 8:30.

The presentations will be designed to be short with the intent of general producer discussion throughout the evening. There is no cost to attend the program but attendees are asked to call the MSU Ontonagon Extension office at 906-884-4386 to as an indication for attendance.



GUPAA Annual Meeting to discuss meat processing study recommendations

The Growing UP Agricultural Association (GUPAA) will be conducting their Annual Meeting on Friday, April 7th, Room 952, Heirman University Center at Bay College in Escanaba with registration beginning at 10:30 am ET. GUPAA will begin their annual business meeting at 11:00 am and discuss previous activities and future agricultural concerns relating to the UP.

Following lunch, Ashley McFarland will provide an overview and lead a discussion on the recently completed multi-species meat processing feasibility study. This feasibility study was a joint effort between Marquette County, MSU Extension, the Upper Peninsula Food Exchange, Farm Bureau and regional planning organizations. The study was initiated to investigate the UP's slaughter and processing capacity, and determine the feasibility for a new facility. Karen Karp & Partners, a national food and agriculture consultancy, was hired to complete the research and prepare recommendations for the region's stakeholders. The research effort consisted of literature review, analysis of secondary data, two surveys of the region's farmers, extensive interviews with stakeholders and experts in the region, and on-site engagements.

Although the results of the study found a clear need for increased slaughter capacity in the UP, there was not enough to support the addition of another facility. The project team did, however, offer the following recommendations which they felt would lead to greater efficiency, higher volumes and increased economic impact:

1. Facilitate effective communication and coordination across the UP meat sector, to include the hiring of a UP Meat Value Chain Coordinator.
2. Cultivate and tap into greater demand for UP produced meat.
3. Provide tools, guidance, and advocacy to farmers for increasing production.
4. Expand processing capacity in the U.P.

This study has provided valuable information pertaining to the potential of the UP meat industry. The question now is "How do we proceed from here?" GUPAA will be pursuing this question during the discussion phase of the program. This discussion is open to anyone with an interest in UP agriculture, which will begin after lunch at approximately 1:30. Everyone is also invited to attend the business meeting at 11:00 or to join us for lunch at 12:30. Please RSVP by calling Michelle at 906-439-5114, ext. 1.

Forestry Teacher Workshops

Michigan is rich with an extensive and diverse forest resource. Forest products and services are essential to human survival and lifestyles. How do forests develop and change? How are we managing this valuable resource today? This workshop will provide teachers with field-based training in the benefits of sustainable forest management.

Participants will gain a basic understanding of forest management by reviewing basic biology/ecology and seeing it applied in actual management activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, go to: <http://michiganforests.org/the-summer-teacher-workshop-is-back-for-2017/>



Cottage Food Law Workshops

This workshop combines the business and food safety aspects of preparing and selling cottage foods safely and successfully under the Michigan Cottage Food Law. Learn what foods can be legally produced, how to label and sell them. Workshops are taught by MSU Extension Educators.

Marquette April 5th from 5:30-7:30 pm Registration Link: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/CFLMarquette/>

Rudyard April 26th from 3:00-5:00 pm Registration Link: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/CFLRudyard/>

Ironwood May 23 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm Registration link will be available in April

For questions or more information contact Michelle Walk, MSU Extension at walkmich@msu.edu or 906-635-6368



Market Report

Choice Steers	\$114—\$125 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$85—\$102 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$61—\$68 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$140—\$180 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$50—\$65 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$75—\$130 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$150—\$175 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows \$1000—\$1500/head

Grade Holstein bred heifers \$1500—\$2500/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$9.73	\$189.75	\$145-244
Soymeal	\$22.78	\$453.00	\$390-552
Oats	\$9.59	\$176.80	\$170-230
Barley	\$9.50	\$185.00	\$140-240
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

**GINOP
SALES
Inc.**

Alanson, MI (800) 344-4667

Williamsburg, MI (800) 304-4667

Hillman, MI (877) 334-4667

www.ginopsales.com



Classifieds

2500 small square bales, excellent quality, early June cutting. 200 round bales about 350lb, good quality, Bruce Crossing 906-827-3827



GREAT LAKES® HYBRIDS
Generations Ahead

Corn, Alfalfa, Soybean

Agriculture Plastic for Harvest and Storage
Bale Wrap, Bunker Covers, Grain and Silage Bags

We also carry Hay preservative

For more info call John at 906-399-5510 or e-mail at

john.rappette@yahoo.com

Registration now open for The North Farm Short Course Series

The North Farm is hosting a series of short courses starting in May on topics designed for market gardeners, small farms, and skill-seekers interested in gardening and farming. These workshops are an in-depth exploration of farming fundamentals and best practices taught by multiple instructors.

Come to MSU North Farm for four afternoon-long learning sessions with an emphasis on hands-on activities so you can practice what you learn in class with other farmers and gardeners.

COST: \$30 for each course/\$100 for all 4 courses

Farm rate for multiple attendees from one farm - \$45 for each course/\$150 for all 4 courses

Refreshments and snacks are provided.

REGISTER AT WWW.MSUNORTHFARM.ORG

Questions?

Contact Abbey Palmer at palmerab@msu.edu or 906-439-5058

SOIL HEALTH

Sunday, May 21 · 1-6pm

Everything you do as a farmer or a gardener is linked to soil. Learn about the physical, biological, and chemical aspects of soil as well as practical soil-building techniques in this get-your-hands-dirty survey of soil health with experts from MAEAP and MSU.

PERENNIAL FRUIT CROPS

Sunday, June 4 · 1-6pm

From familiar raspberries to “novel” types like goji berries, perennial fruits are gaining popularity with market gardeners and farmers alike. Find out about variety selection, establishment, and cultural practices – including growing in high tunnels – for growing berries in a northern climate with MSU educators on perennial fruit crops.

ORGANIC SMALL GRAINS

Sunday, July 9 · 1-6pm

The North Farm is conducting research trials in organic small grain production to identify challenges and opportunities in the Upper Peninsula. Come see the research plots, talk with researchers and growers, and discuss some of the realities of growing organic grains in northern climates. Topics will include plot establishment, weed management, pest and disease challenges, and variety selection.

INSECTS ON THE FARM

Sunday, August 13 · 1-6pm

Insects are important players on the farm – though often thought of as pests and parasites, insects are active in soil health, as pollinators, and even as pest control. Understanding insects in the context of your whole farm ecosystem will help you make informed decisions. Learn best practices from MSU educators on integrated pest management (IPM), native pollinators, and bees.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Serving the Upper Peninsula Agricultural Industry

Michigan State University Extension is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University 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 Michelle at colema98@msu.edu or (906) 439-5114

Calendar of Events

- April 5 Michigan Cottage Food Law Workshop—Marquette Commons (5:30—7:30 pm)
- April 6 Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training—Marquette Township Hall (9 am—4 pm)
- April 7 Growing U.P. Agricultural Association Annual Meeting—Bay College (10:30 am—3:30 pm)
- April 7-9 Kiwanis Home and Garden Show & Pancake Feed—Escanaba, Ruth Butler Building
- April 17 Beef Educational Meeting—Greenland Township Hall, Mass City (6:30-8:30 pm)
- April 20 Beef Educational Meeting—Rudyard Township Hall (6:30-8:30 pm)
- April 26 Michigan Cottage Food Law Workshop—Rudyard Township Hall (3—5 pm)



This ad could be yours!
Paid advertising delivers this newsletter to your mailbox each month!

Contact Michelle @ 439-5114 to place an ad (\$30/month)