



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

January 2023

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 27 Issue 1

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Michigan State University and partners will be hosting the Ag for Tomorrow Conference in the Heirman Center of Bay College in Escanaba. Last year was the first year back after the Covid shutdowns. Also last year we still had many Covid restrictions to follow. That will not be the case this year. This year the conference will be held on Wednesday, March 8.

The format will be very similar to the most recent conferences including a room for exhibitors, a keynote address in the exhibitor room, four tracks of classes and lunch in the cafeteria. The keynote speaker, Elise Bur, Director of the NMU Center for Rural Health, will share results of a Food Hub Feasibility Study conducted by the Center over the last year in partnership with the UP Food Exchange, MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center, Feeding America West Michigan, Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) Regional Commission, and New Venture Advisors with financial support from MI Health Endowment Fund. The study involved interviews with 30 UP farmers, food businesses and stakeholders and a survey of 75 UP farmers, food businesses and food buyers to gauge needs and interest related to local food aggregation, processing and distribution.

The four tracks are not fully set but will include:

Farm Homestead Track Presentations

- Bees (native pollinators)
- apple pruning
- root cellar
- poultry (broilers)

Diversified Farms Track

- No-till tarping, Full Plate or Ski Country Farm
- Food Hub Feasibility Study
- No-till tarping
- Seed to Kitchen

Crop Production Track

- Vermeer Equipment
- Fuel Savings
- Using financial records and partial budgeting to make decisions
- Soil Health - Michelle Sweeten

Livestock Production Track

- Pig carcass – learning how carcasses are fabricated into chops and roasts
- Beef carcass – fabrication into steaks and roasts
- Hog production
- Summer Annual Trial/ diverse cover - Jeremy Sweeten

Last year we were blessed with donated vegetables and milk from Upper Peninsula farmers for the meal. This year we expect those donations to include donated meat as well.

Michigan State University

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Central Michigan Dry Bean Grower Update

January 30, 2023

LOCATION:

Isabella County Building
200 N. Main St.
3rd Floor, Room 320
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Online via Zoom:

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/933953229714>

COST: FREE

TIME: 10 AM – 12 PM

REGISTER:

<https://tinyurl.com/3km4mnjm>

**Complimentary
Chili Lunch at 12
Noon**

2 RUP credits

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Annual update of on-going MSU research and industry trends for the 2023 growing season!

AGENDA:

Dry Bean Disease Updates

Dr. Martin Chilvers & Jill Check, MSU Extension

Variety Trials and Dry Bean Management

Scott Bales, MSU Extension Dry Bean Specialist

Commission Updates

Joe Cramer, Executive Director Michigan Bean Commission

Market Updates

Chaise Wilson & Matt Hawn, Star of the West Milling Co

Insect Updates & Summer Moth Trapping

Local Updates

Monica Jean/Paul Gross, MSU Extension Educators

Economic advantages to wrapping dry hay

By Michelle Sweeten, MSUE

Will the labor expense needed to get two or three layers of plastic around a bale of dry hay pay off?

Farmers are discussing wrapping large bale dry hay to be stored outside with a couple layers of plastic to protect it from the weather – and some of them are doing it. The increasing cost of hay production and resulting value of quality hay may provide a good reason for spending extra time and money to reduce storage loss. Wrapping dry hay allows farmers to protect feed from the weather without building more structures.

If the hay is in string-tied bales and to be stored outside, then a couple turns of plastic may be an economic advantage, as long as the gain due to reduced storage losses outweighs the loss in increased expense. If they are net-wrapped bales, and you know they will be stored outside, then putting extra net wrap on while baling may be as effective, economically speaking. Dry round bales wrapped with an in-line wrapper with plastic wraps of 6 to 8 inches overlap can still result in a layer of decomposed hay on the outside of the bale.

The basic idea is to keep rain and melting snow from entering the bale and ground moisture from wicking up through the bottom. But is two layers really enough? Some farmers believe that more layers, up to six, are well worth the extra cost. A thicker barrier is more dependable than a thin one, but more costly. If new to this approach, it may be wise to experiment with different wrapping thickness on your own farm. Starting out with more wrap, and leaving a few bales with less for comparison, will help you decide for yourself.

Another alternative is using round bale “sleeves.” These plastic covers are open on both ends of the bale and are meant to protect from precipitation above and wicking from below. If handled carefully, they can be reused for two years.

For a comparison of large round bale storage, review [University of Wisconsin Team Forage](#) member Craig Saxe’s article, [“Big Bale Storage Losses: How different options stack up.”](#)

For more information, contact [Michelle Sweeten](#), forage and livestock educator with [Michigan State University Extension](#), at 765-346-8183.

2023 Michigan Manure Management Summit

January 31, 2023 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Registration Deadline: January 23, 2023 - 11:59PM

AgroLiquid Conference Center, 3055 M-21, St Johns, MI 48879

Contact: M. Charles Gould

The Michigan Manure Management Summit, hosted by Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Farm Bureau, is an annual educational event that provides updates on the science and best practices of manure management. Topics that will be covered include safety around manure, emergency manure spill response, manure application technology, management of odor, media, and employees, and a panel of Level 1 certified farms and firms.

The program is specifically designed for anyone who hauls and applies manure. The Summit also provides required CECs for individuals who have been certified in any level by the Michigan Manure Hauler Certification Program.

The group registration rate is \$25/person for groups of three or more. Single registrations are \$50.00 per person. To register for the Summit, click on the link below.

[Event Summary for Michigan Manure Management Summit | ANR Events Management System \(msu.edu\)](#)

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Smart Gardening with Vegetables 101 MSU Extension Live Webinar Feb.—March 2023

*Live 6 session
webinar series with
instructors for \$30*

*Thursday
evenings: 2/2, 2/9,
2/16, 2/23, 3/9,
3/16
6:00-7:00 pm EST*

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Or contact Liz Slajus:
slajusel@msu.edu

Would you like to learn how to grow vegetables?

MSU Extension will offer the Smart Gardening with Vegetables 101 course LIVE during January & February 2023. Register now for the webinar course to be held on Thursday evenings from 6-7 p.m. EST. Learn how you can contribute to the Smart Gardening principles of creating healthy soils and plants, while enjoying the health benefits of growing and eating fresh produce.



In this course, MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture educators, Rebecca Krans and Sarah Rautio, cover gardening from start to finish with 6 lessons:

- Site Selection & Creating Healthy Soil
- Planning & Selecting Vegetables
- Seeds & Transplants
- Raised Beds & Container Gardening
- Integrated Pest Management
- Other Gardening Activities & Composting

Many additional resources will also be made available such as Extension publications, Smart Gardening tip sheets, and common Q&As. After successful completion and 80% proficiency, participants receive a certificate of completion. For MSU Extension Master Gardeners, this series qualifies for seven hours of Extension Master Gardener educational credits.



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2023 MSU Feedlot Educational Series

By Jerad Jaborek, MSUE

The 2023 MSU Feedlot Educational Series is set to continue at Beagio's in Kingston again this year. These events will take place on the second Wednesday of the month from January through March. The program will allow participants to attend in person or virtually via Zoom.

Dates and topics:

January 11, 2023 - Effects of Tar Spot and plant health on the implications of feed quality, sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred

February 8, 2023 - Cost effective technologies to promote the growth of feedlot cattle, sponsored by Elanco

March 8, 2023 - Carcass composition and evaluation of feedlot cattle, sponsored by Zoetis

Participants can register for any or all of the presentations in the feedlot educational series at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/feedlot23/>. If you have any questions, please contact [Jerad Jaborek](mailto:Jerad.Jaborek@msu.edu) at 715-451-2035 or jaborekj@msu.edu.

2023 Farm Bill Program & Crop Insurance Decisions – What fits your farm?

Jonathan LaPorte and Stan Moore, Michigan State University Extension

Will it be Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or Agricultural Loss Coverage (ARC) for your farm?

For the upcoming 2023 production year, producers once again have the opportunity to select which Farm Bill program will work best for their farms. Will it be Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or Agricultural Loss Coverage (ARC) for your farm?

Answering that question is a bit more complex when considering the importance of crop insurance options that tie into farm bill programs. The Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) and the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) are key factors in determining which program may be best. These county-based revenue insurance additions would be on top of what producers have selected for individual coverage on their farms up to 86% for SCO and from 86% up to 95% with ECO.

On January 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. and again on February 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., experts from [Michigan State University Extension](https://www.maizecrops.com/) and Eagle Valley Ag Risk Advisors, LLC will provide you with the best information to help you evaluate your risk and make your Farm Bill decisions.

At these meetings producers will:

- Hear highlights from the 2023 decisions and how those decisions played out across the state
- Learn the latest in policy and impacts of programs
- Learn about current and new crop insurance options available to you
- Work through case examples using the MSU Extension Farm Bill Calculator to help make better decisions on ARC versus PLC as each crop and FSA farm number may result in a different choice
- Discuss specific program details with experts

Featured Experts:

- Molly Sears, Assistant Professor, Michigan State University Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics
- Roger Betz, Michigan State University Extension Senior Educator
- Jon LaPorte, Michigan State University Extension Educator
- Elliot Alfredson, Eagle Valley Ag Risk Advisors, LLC

Participation in these meetings is free, but producers are asked to register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/farbill23/>.

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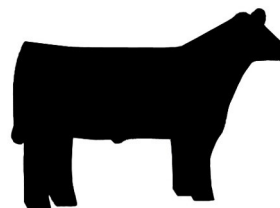
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Classifieds

FOR SALE: Mixed Grass Hay in Escanaba, 4x5 bales. Call Bill Johnson 906-630-4945 or 906-786-4878.

FOR SALE: Hay, mixed round bales, 700# stored inside. Also small square bales of straw. Call Jim (906)280-1649 or 466-2672.

FOR SALE: small square bales of straw and 2nd & 3rd crop hay bales. Call Marenger Potato Farm (906)384-6587.

FOR SALE: 1st crop alfalfa baleage. Call Jim Dalgord at (906) 644-2107.

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

FOR SALE: Black Wagyu Bulls, forage fed. For more information contact Paul Naasz, MSU UPREC, Chatham (906)439-5114 Ext. 2.

FOR SALE: Hay, 5x6 round bales legume grass hay, stored inside. Call Jon and Donna Ahlberg, Iron River (906)265-9333.

Looking for animals to custom graze on 120 acres. Henry Miller 2351 W 6 Mile Rd, Sault Ste Marie, 49783

FOR SALE: High moisture corn, approximately 5,000 bushels in harvester already rolled. \$8/per 100; \$160/ton. (906)424-0225.

FOR SALE: Simmental Bulls, mature and young, registered and non-registered. Call Duane Kolpack (906) 362-6862.

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Market Report

Choice Steers	\$140-\$160 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$134-\$147 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$55-\$60 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$120-\$180 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$70-\$85 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$90-\$120 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$250-\$350 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows top \$2000/head

Grade Holstein bred heifers top \$2100/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$17.92	\$358.40	\$265-560
Soymeal	\$29.68	\$593.50	\$500-690
Oats	\$17.69	\$353.75	\$319-416
Barley	\$13.81	\$276.25	\$200-386
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

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Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District

2023 Conservation Grants



The Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District (CLMCD) is excited to announce the application period of the 2023 Conservation Grants Program.

Grants are available to the public for conservation related projects to be implemented in Chippewa, Luce, or Mackinac County.

CLMCD is anticipating awarding up to \$12,000 to 6 - 10 projects across Chippewa Luce and Mackinac Counties. Grants will range between \$1,000 - \$2,000 each. CLMCD seeks proposals for a variety of projects that have a direct impact to the improvement of our natural resources through hands on educational programs or projects that directly impact the environment.

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***For additional details and grant eligibility along with the grant Application Packet please visit our website at:
www.clmcd.org/conservationgrants***

Application Deadline is February 10th, 2023 at 4:00pm