



U.P. Ag Connections Newsletter

January 2021

Agricultural News from MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

Volume 25 Issue 1

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- UP/Northern Michigan Virtual Pest and Crop Management Update meeting

Field Crops Webinar Series starting Monday Feb 15-March 22. More info coming in February newsletter

or call Eric Anderson at (269) 359-0565.

News and Views

By Frank Wardynski, MSUE

Happy New Year!

It is that time of year that we should go through a checklist to make certain we are keeping track of financial performance on the farm and to capture all the available funds.

Financial Management

Develop an end of year balance sheet. It seems simple enough yet too many do not start and finish each year with a balance sheet. The balance sheet tells us our net worth and how it will change from year to year. It is a critical piece of the profitability equation. To fill out the balance sheet you will start by finding the balances of all your accounts. Checking accounts, balances owed to other businesses, credit card balances, loan balances, money owed to you from other parties, and prepaid expenses. Next, you need to take inventories of your assets, feed, supplies, livestock, machinery, buildings, land. Anyone interested, I would love to help create your balance sheet.

Conduct a year end financial analysis. This is not nearly as easy as the balance sheet and usually requires special software. I have the software and again am willing to help in this area. It basically uses the accounting system to evaluate positive or negative cash in and out of the business and takes the change in net worth from the beginning to the end of the year. You have spent all year trying to make money, why not evaluate the business profitability.

Farm Service Agency

Many farmers will need to decide to sign up for Agriculture Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC). The deadline for sign-up is March 15, but webinars will be conducted to assist farmers to make these decisions in late January and early February. Grain commodity prices have gotten considerably better since last summer but that will be part of making the decision. The decision will also impact the crop insurance options available to farmers. 2021 Farm Bill Program & Crop Insurance Decisions – What Fits Your Farm? is a free webinar, but producers are asked to sign up at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/farmbill2021>

Covid-19 relief program. Details are not yet fully known, but there will be \$13 billion available to agriculture as well as the Payroll Protection Program. Once details are set, farmers will be able to sign up through FSA as the two previous COVID-19 assistance programs.

Price Protection

Farm profits over the past several years have been poor and frequently in the negative. Much of that has been due to poor commodity prices. When prices gain strength, producers need to look at opportunities to get some price guarantees. Some options include cash contracts of grains, forward selling feeders calves for future delivery, Livestock Risk Protection Program (LRP), options contracts. I have been focusing on the LRP Program over the past couple years. Each of the past two years, LRP contracts have paid dividends to producers buying insurance in the spring for late summer and fall sales. I will be covering more on these programs throughout the year.

SPRING OAT & BARLEY VARIETY TRIAL – 2020 YIELD RESULTS

J. DeDecker, D. Baas, B. Wilke, C. Kapp, & C. Tollini, with MCIA & Wilk Farms

Michigan State University conducted spring oat and barley variety trials in 2020 with support from the Michigan Crop Improvement Association (MCIA). Locations included Chatham, MI at the MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center, on-farm in Posen, MI and the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners, MI. These trials brought a national oat variety testing program to Michigan called the Uniform Early Open Oat Nursery (USDA), as well as incorporating commercial oat and barley entries from MCIA, which we report on below. This new research represents an expanded effort to understand oat and barley adaptability and performance in Michigan for both traditional markets and emerging opportunities in craft malting, milling, and distilling. Grain quality results are forthcoming in the next few weeks, and will be reported when available.

Table 1: MCIA Oat Performance at Chatham, MI

Variety	Yield (bu/a @13.5%)	Sig.	TW (lbs/bu)	Heading Date	Height (in)	Disease (0-5)	Lodging (0-9)
Antigo	85.95	abcdef	38.90	3-Jul	26.67	2.67	3.33
Badger	96.39	abcd	35.57	3-Jul	25.00	3.00	5.33
Beta Gene	94.77	abcd	34.23	9-Jul	26.00	1.67	1.33
Deon	96.73	abcd	37.47	10-Jul	31.00	1.00	2.00
Esker	96.40	abcd	33.63	6-Jul	26.33	2.67	7.00
Esker 2000	107.13	a	34.33	5-Jul	30.00	2.67	4.00
Excel	94.86	abcd	34.87	6-Jul	26.67	2.00	7.67
Goliath	91.79	abcde	36.43	11-Jul	38.00	1.33	7.67
Hayden	90.66	abcde	36.47	10-Jul	29.33	2.00	7.33
Horsepower	91.10	abcde	33.50	6-Jul	27.33	2.67	9.00
Ida	77.93	bcdef	32.00	10-Jul	30.00	3.00	6.00
Jerry	73.24	cdef	36.90	2-Jul	30.67	3.67	8.33
Natty	97.70	abc	36.80	5-Jul	34.67	1.67	8.33
ND Heart	61.79	f	34.07	7-Jul	32.67	2.33	1.67
Newburgh	87.62	abcde	31.47	11-Jul	29.33	2.33	7.67
Ogle	86.08	abcdef	32.30	6-Jul	29.00	2.67	4.00
Pearl	89.59	abcde	36.07	10-Jul	29.33	2.00	6.00
Reins	97.31	abcd	37.17	5-Jul	22.67	3.00	3.67
Rockford	72.68	cdef	33.87	10-Jul	31.33	3.00	8.00
Rushmore	104.57	ab	38.37	10-Jul	29.67	1.00	6.00
Saber	87.84	abcde	34.87	3-Jul	27.00	3.00	4.33
Saddle	80.28	abcdef	35.20	1-Jul	23.33	2.00	0.33
Shelby 427	68.91	def	36.40	5-Jul	30.00	2.00	9.00
Souris	72.02	cdef	34.43	9-Jul	25.67	3.33	6.00
Streaker	49.58	g	48.23	9-Jul	33.67	1.33	7.00
Sumo	66.64	ef	36.83	30-Jun	28.00	2.33	0.00
Warrior	76.61	bcdef	33.10	6-Jul	26.33	2.00	0.33
Average	85.04		35.68	6-Jul	28.88	2.31	5.23

Trial Details

Design:

Rectangular lattice with three replications

Planting date:

Chatham – May 6th

Posen – April 27th

Hickory Corners – April 6th

Seeded at 28 seeds/ft²

Fertility:

50 lbs/acre actual nitrogen and 21 lbs/acre sulfur across all locations at planting, plus 60 lbs/a potash at Hickory Corners.

Herbicide:

1qt/acre Bromox 2E at Chatham
2 pt/acre Broclean at Posen
No herbicide at Hickory Corners

Fungicide (barley):

8.2 oz/ac Provaro at Chatham and Posen at 95% anthesis
13.7 oz/ac Miravis Ace at Hickory Corners a 95% anthesis

Harvest Date:

Chatham – August 25-26th

Posen – August 20th

Hickory Corners- July 21st (barley),
July 29th (oats)

Pest Notes:

-Cereal leaf beetle, crown rust and lodging in Chatham oats
-Leaf disease in Posen oats
-Spot blotch in Chatham and Posen barley



Table 2: MCIA Oat Performance at Posen, MI

Variety	Yield (bu/a @13.5%)	Sig.	TW (lbs/bu)	Heading Date	Disease (0-5)
Antigo	15.77	ab	35.40	29-Jun	2.50
Badger	14.04	ab	26.23	1-Jul	3.50
Beta Gene	16.01	ab	28.33	6-Jul	2.50
Deon	22.11	ab	28.93	10-Jul	2.00
Esker	24.43	a	29.93	6-Jul	2.00
Esker 2000	23.32	ab	30.50	6-Jul	2.33
Excel	15.02	ab	26.90	5-Jul	1.67
Goliath	16.47	ab	23.27	12-Jul	2.17
Hayden	22.26	ab	31.47	8-Jul	1.83
Horsepower	20.72	ab	32.23	6-Jul	2.00
Ida	11.22	ab	23.80	11-Jul	2.67
Jerry	3.14	b	10.07	2-Jul	3.83
Natty	21.89	ab	31.50	6-Jul	2.50
ND Heart	15.70	ab	28.30	9-Jul	3.00
Newburgh	12.16	ab	24.73	8-Jul	2.00
Ogle	11.19	ab	29.05	6-Jul	2.67
Pearl	10.80	ab	24.30	15-Jul	3.67
Reins	15.64	ab	33.73	3-Jul	2.83
Rockford	7.77	ab	17.80	12-Jul	3.00
Rushmore	6.55	ab	17.67	11-Jul	3.33
Saber	16.83	ab	32.53	2-Jul	2.17
Saddle	15.84	ab	28.80	29-Jun	3.00
Shelby 427	25.56	a	33.70	6-Jul	2.00
Souris	15.16	ab	29.95	12-Jul	3.33
Streaker	6.87	ab	33.00	10-Jul	3.50
Sumo	10.58	ab	32.90	28-Jun	3.67
Warrior	11.12	ab	29.03	6-Jul	3.00
Average	15.12		27.93	6-Jul	2.69

Table 3: MCIA Oat Performance at Hickory Corners, MI

Variety	Yield (bu/a @13.5%)	Sig.	TW (lbs/bu)
Antigo	74.05	abc	34.80
Badger	86.20	ab	31.57
Beta Gene	78.20	abc	30.57
Deon	64.69	bcd	32.33
Esker	84.91	ab	29.50
Esker 2000	86.34	ab	30.53
Excel	72.29	abc	29.83
Goliath	82.10	abc	32.27
Hayden	75.90	abc	33.07
Horsepower	74.62	abc	30.70
Ida	74.57	abc	30.93
Jerry	76.83	abc	32.97
Natty	89.86	a	32.00
ND Heart	68.15	abcd	30.50
Newburgh	72.88	abc	30.87
Ogle	74.29	abc	28.93
Pearl	73.11	abc	33.50
Reins	83.51	ab	33.33
Rockford	52.28	de	32.97
Rushmore	91.05	a	34.47
Saber	74.71	abc	30.43
Saddle	84.70	ab	32.57
Shelby 427	75.89	abc	33.20
Souris	70.74	abc	32.33
Streaker	37.23	f	43.70
Sumo	69.73	abc	33.10
Warrior	60.17	cd	31.30
Average	73.32		32.43

Table 4: MCIA Barley Performance at Chatham, MI

Variety	Yield (bu/a @13.5%)	Sig.	TW (lbs/bu)	Heading Date	Disease (0-5)
Bowers	56.80	a	43.77	7-Jul	2.67
Innovation	57.97	a	44.17	4-Jul	2.67
LCS Odyssey	28.93	c	41.37	17-Jul	4.00
ND Genesis	45.89	abc	44.70	12-Jul	2.33
Rasmussen	50.44	ab	46.10	6-Jul	3.00
Spartan	34.66	bc	45.00	29-Jun	4.00
Tradition	48.21	abc	46.70	4-Jul	2.67
Average	46.12		44.54	7-Jul	3.04

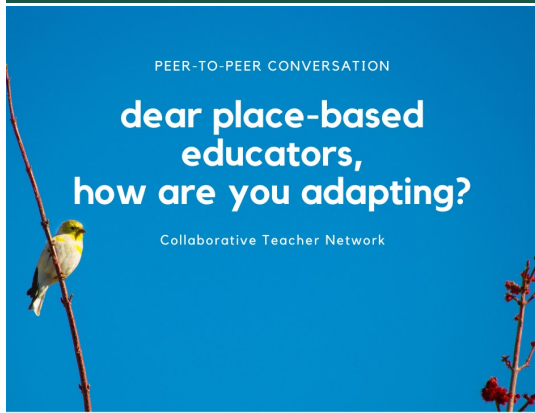
Table 5: MCIA Barley Performance at Posen, MI

Variety	Yield (bu/a @13.5%)	Sig.	TW (lbs/bu)	Heading Date	Disease (0-5)
Bowers	27.08	a	38.37	5-Jul	2.50
Innovation	36.60	a	42.10	2-Jul	2.83
LCS Odyssey	23.32	a	41.15	8-Jul	3.00
ND Genesis	37.25	a	41.57	3-Jul	2.83
Rasmussen	19.47	a	39.03	5-Jul	2.83
Spartan	42.21	a	42.57	4-Jul	2.67
Tradition	19.36	a	40.00	3-Jul	3.00
Average	29.33		40.68	4-Jul	2.81

Table 6: MCIA Barley Performance at Hickory Corners, MI

Variety	Yield (bu/a @13.5%)	Sig.	TW (lbs/bu)	Heading Date	Disease (0-5)
Bowers	46.70	ab	41.97	NA	0
Innovation	47.25	ab	42.63	NA	0
LCS Odyssey	51.66	ab	44.80	NA	0
ND Genesis	56.88	a	38.47	NA	0
Rasmussen	57.68	a	44.37	NA	0
Spartan	43.89	b	45.60	NA	0
Tradition	43.93	b	41.90	NA	0
Average	49.72		42.82	NA	0





The **Collaborative Teacher Network** offers peer-to-peer support for educators at monthly meetings designed to refresh your mind, take you outdoors, and connect you with other teachers. Together, we share and learn ways to venture outdoors confidently, safely, and joyfully with children and use nature for teaching and learning in virtual and/or in person settings.

Program is free and open to all Michigan-based educators and teachers. Focus is on K-12 but can be used with preK and college audiences, too.

Every session has:

- An *outdoor* social and emotional learning activity that you can modify for your students (bring your coat, hat, mittens, etc!)
- *Idea sharing* between teachers (whole and small group) and personal reflection time
- Strategies for carrying out *place based education in a virtual setting*

Sign up here – and feel free to share with your colleagues! <https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwsdO-vrD8iGNCwwJR6wDuVIS2rlseZSig2>

Winter Outdoor Activities (January 11): Use winter nature play to build bridges to meaningful outdoor learning experiences. Materials needed: outdoor clothes and shoes, access to the outdoors

Using 5 Senses to Explore (Feb 8): Practice quiet observation to create a sound map, using words or pictures to describe your experience. Materials needed: paper, writing utensil, outdoor clothes and shoes, access to the outdoors

Up-Close Observation (March 8): Bring or find a natural object to examine closely. We'll use sketching and listing to connect with the object before we change our perspective to imagine its role in our ecosystem. Materials needed: natural object, paper, writing utensil, outdoor clothes and shoes, access to the outdoors

Hosted by place-based educators from Michigan State University's teaching farms across the state:

Abbey Palmer- palmerab@msu.edu ([MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center](#), Chatham, MI) [@msunorthfarm](#)
Ellen Koehler- koehle43@msu.edu ([Tollgate Farm and Education Center](#), Novi, MI) [@ExperienceTollgate](#)
Kara Haas and Misty Klotz - k12partnership@kbs.msu.edu ([W.K. Kellogg Biological Station](#), Hickory Corners, MI) [@KelloggBioStn](#) Facebook: [KelloggBioStn](#)

Is your bull risky?

Dan Buskirk, MSU Beef Extension Specialist

Certainly, 2020 reminded us that we all have different tolerance for risk. That got me thinking about bull related risks. Risk, in a bull context, could have different definitions, including “*the chance of injury when handling a bull*”, but I am referring to risk as it relates to “*the possibility of financial loss*”. I believe many producers assume much more risk than they realize with their bull purchases.

What are some ways that a bull could be risky and lead to financial loss?

- Infertility
- Poor genetics for growth, structure, reproduction, carcass traits
- Biosecurity breach of herd health
- Biosecurity breach of genetic defect (particularly lethal) infusion into the herd

All bulls are inherently risky. However, cattlemen should add the cost of risk to the purchase price when they buy a bargain as their herd bull. The most important function of a bull evaluation program is to reduce risk for commercial cattlemen.

The MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Program is the region's premier central bull appraisal program and is a cooperative effort by the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, Michigan State University Extension, and Plank Farm. For the last 33 years, the program has promoted performance-evaluation of beef cattle; provided a common environment for evaluating bulls for growth, breeding and structural soundness, and body composition; and aided beef producers in obtaining superior bulls evaluated for these traits. In early October 2020, 100 Angus, Red Angus, Hereford, Charolais, Simmental and SimAngus bulls arrived at the evaluation station in Crystal, MI, where they are currently on test through February. The top bulls will be offered for sale on March 20, 2021, including the popular online bidding option. All bulls will have complete data and videos posted in early March. Sign up at www.mibulls.com/reports to follow test progress and receive important sale updates.

The Farm Business Incubator Program is a launching point for farm businesses. This residential program provides farming entrepreneurs with the necessary tools and assistance: land, equipment, tools, and mentorship are provided to qualified applicants for up to five years so they can develop a business plan, establish accounts, build capital, and fine-tune skills.

More info and application at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/>



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Market Report

Choice Steers	\$98-\$105 per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$84-\$95 per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$55-\$63 per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$150-\$220 per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$50-\$58 per 100 lbs.
Calves	\$50-\$105 per 100 lbs.
Goats	\$250-\$350 per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1000-\$1300/head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$1000-\$1350/head

Feed Prices across the U.P.

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$12.26	\$245.25	\$200-342
Soymeal	\$26.51	\$530.25	\$500-552
Oats	\$13.49	\$269.75	\$239-340
Barley	\$12.16	\$243.25	\$200-314
Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots			

Classifieds

FOR SALE: 2nd and 3rd crop alfalfa, small square bales. Marenger Potato Farm, Flat Rock. (906)384-6587.

FOR SALE: Alfalfa Balage, 2nd and 3rd crop alfalfa. \$60/bale. (906) 630-4945.

FOR SALE: Mixed hay, large round bales, 800#, \$20/bale. Call Al (906)647-6697.

FOR SALE: Koyker 565 Loader with 7 ft bucket. Also has skid steer adapter. Fits JD 3000-5000 series tractors. \$2500; **Oliver 13 ft disk** with 18 inch scalloped blades, \$1095. Call Tolfree Farms (908) 884-2351 or email countryj@jamadots.com.

FOR SALE: Hay, large square bales 3x3x7.75 Timothy grass, 4,000 to sell. Former dairy farm doing all big square bales hay. Call Dave Bell in the EUP 906-440-6455 or email Bellsdairy@yahoo.com. Also a realtor in the UP so contact me for real estate here. Dave@smith-company.com

Beautiful property in the Upper Michigan, 130 acres In Perkins for sale or pasture for rent for livestock for the 2020 season. Beautiful river running through it. Great for hunting, building or developing, or simple grazing livestock. Land is divided into 9 paddocks with high tensile electric fence and 5 stock watering ponds. Call (906) 359-4825.

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Farm Job Posting

Seeking an experienced farmer to help with cattle operation and grain crops on an 800+ acre farm in Garden, Michigan on the Upper Peninsula. Now accepting applications. Farmer is responsible for daily care, health and over all well-being of cattle and will have experience in hay or grain production. Applicants should have the ability to lift up to 50lbs and to operate various farm equipment and provide basic repair and maintenance. Compensation is competitive based on experience. Housing is available for this position. Please forward a summary of your current skills and relevant work history to gmpzapartments@hotmail.com or contact us at 773-929-6007. Please also include a contact number so we can call you to discuss the opportunity further.

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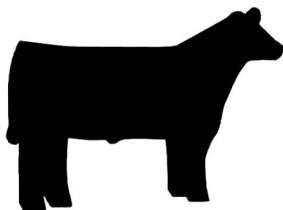
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MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Program

BULL SALE

MARCH 20, 2021 – 12:30 PM

ANGUS, RED ANGUS, CHAROLAIS, HEREFORD,
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Open House
March 6, 2021
10 am—1 pm

Covid safety protocols
will be observed.



UP/Northern Michigan Virtual Pest and Crop Management Update 2021

3 RUP & CCA Credits Available

January 15, 2021 9:00 am-Noon
Cost: \$15.00
(INCLUDES MSU 2021 Weed Control Guide for Field Crops)
TO REGISTER: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2021PCMUUPDATE/>

If you need special accommodations please contact Jim Isleib, isleibj@msu.edu 906-250-9609, or Christina Curell, curellc@msu.edu 231-287-8617, by January 10, 2021

Topics and Speakers:

Mixing It Up in Your Hayfield: Dr. Kim Cassida, MSUE Forage and Cover Crop Specialist

- Learn how growing grasses and legumes mixed together provides nutritional and environmental advantages but also some unique challenges for haymaking.

Small Grains: Oats, Barley, Triticale and Straw : Dennis Pennington, MSUE Wheat System Specialist

This talk will cover results from oat, barley and triticale variety trial results for grain and forage yields. We will also discuss the pro's, con's and agronomic management recommendations for straw harvest.

Advancement of Northern Michigan Dry Beans: Scott Bales Dry Bean Specialist, MSUE

- In this talk we will discuss current and upcoming varieties, nitrogen management, and planting populations pertinent to Northern Michigan.

Successful Corn Silage Production: Dr. Manni Singh, MSUE Agronomy Specialist

Dr. Singh will showcase research and practices that will ensure good silage production in Northern Michigan.

Integrated Wildlife Damage Management in Northern Michigan : Dr. James DeDecker, Director—MSU-UPREC

Dr. James DeDecker will discuss the latest on wildlife crop damage and your options for management in Northern Michigan

MAEAP: Holly Moss, Conservation District MAEAP Technician

Learn how you can make your farming operation are environmentally friendly and aid in the farm becoming more sustainable



The 2021 MSU Field Crops Weed Guides will be available to participants and shipped to you. The guides are paid for by the checkoff dollars from Michigan Wheat, Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, and Michigan Corn.