



Great Lakes Grazing Newsletter

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Osceola County MSU Extension
301 W. Upton Ave
Reed City, MI 49677

Volume 7, Issue 1

Phone: 231-832-6139
Toll Free: 888-678-3464
Email: lindquis@anr.msu.edu

February 2018

Dear Michigan Grazier,

The white season is here and with it comes the winter meeting season. This newsletter is loaded with meeting info that may be important to you.

The highlight of all of them in my mind is the MSU Grass-fed School coming the end of this month. After six years of research in Michigan the team of MSU Researchers and Extension Educators will offer all the insight into what they have discovered. From selecting the proper cattle, pasture forage and hay to managing them for better gain and economics, to getting them sold for a premium this two day school will cover it all. Grass-fed beef production is not for everyone, but for those who wish to venture into this market they had better do it well because the supply competition is growing. This school then becomes a must attend for those desiring to improve their grass feeding skills.

Plus there is a whole lot more in the way of meetings to attend that can help you improve your bottom line. I hope to see you out and about a few times this winter.

Here is to a safe and prosperous 2018 !

Jerry Lindquist

MSU Grazing & Field Crop Educator

Inside this issue:

Michigan Hay Supply	2
Field Crops Webinar Series	4
Grass Fed Beef School	5
Restricted Use Pesticide Review & Exam	6
Cow-Calf Management Seminar	7-8
Solar Energy Development	9
Great Lakes Forage & Grazing Conference	10-11
Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Clinics	12
Beef Bull Buying Sales	13

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.

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, or 231-832-6139, or Phil Kaatz, MSU Extension Forage Educator at 810-667-0341 or at 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).





**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY** | Extension

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

<u>February 19th</u>	<u>March 12th</u>
◦ Conservation Drainage Dr. Ehsan Ghane, MSU	◦ Controlling Troublesome Weeds Dr. Christy Sprague, MSU
<u>February 26th</u>	<u>March 19th</u>
◦ Managing Nematodes in Corn and Soy Dr. Marisol Quintanilla, MSU	◦ Mitigating Control Failures in Bt Corn Dr. Chris DiFonzo, MSU
<u>March 5th</u>	<u>March 26th</u>
◦ Interseeding Alfalfa Into Silage Corn Drs. Erin Burns & Kim Cassida, MSU	◦ Corn Hybrid & Soy Variety Selection Dr. Manni Singh, MSU

Visit events.anr.msu.edu/FieldCropsWebinarSeries2018
to register and access connection information.

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



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 Rountree
 MSU Beef Specialist

Doug Carmichael
 MSU LC Manager

Blaine Hitzfield
 (via Zoom)

Seven Sons, Marketing &
 Distribution

MSU Educators

Jeannine Schweihofe
 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 or

The Cadillac area www.cadillacmichigan.com

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

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension 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. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations.

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 or Jill O'Donnell 231-779-9480 or at odon-ne10@anr.msu.edu

or

2.) registering on-line for the exam only at 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.

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.

MICHIGAN STATE | Extension
UNIVERSITY

2018 Cow-Calf Management Seminar



Session Locations

March 5
Bay College Heirman Center
Danforth Rd
Escanaba, MI 49829

March 6
Gaylord University Center
80 Livingston Blvd
Gaylord, MI 49735

March 12
Ionia MSU Extension
50 E. Sprague Rd
Ionia, MI 48846

March 13
Mid Michigan Community College
Michigan Room
1375 S. Clare Ave
Harrison, MI 48625

MICHIGAN STATE | Extension
UNIVERSITY

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension 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. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jeffrey W. Dwyer, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations.

March 5th, 6th, 12th & 13th
Escanaba, Gaylord, Ionia & Harrison, MI

2018 Cow-Calf Management Seminar

Registration

6:30-7:00 p.m.

Bovine Tb, Current Efforts and Vision for the Future

7:00-7:15 p.m.

George Quackenbush,
Executive Vice President, Michigan Cattlemen's Association

Kevin Gould / Phil Durst
MSU Extension Beef Educator

The session will provide an update of the current status of Tb in Michigan and current movements at the state level.

Cow-Calf Health Risk Assessment

8:10-9:00 p.m.

Frank Wardynski,
MSU Extension Beef Educator

Phil Durst
MSU Dairy and Beef Extension Educator

Beef cow-calf herd health is usually easy and straight forward. Pay special attention at calving and weaning, then after that the health of animals on the farm is generally good. At least until problems occur. Then producers are looking backwards at what they should have done. This presentation will cover strategies to develop a herd health management calendar: by utilizing own farm risk assessment, implementing management practices to ensure good health while minimizing production cost, and by using judicious use of antibiotics and chemical products to minimize organism resistance.

Selection Madness: Let's Take a Time-out and Set Up a Play

7:15-8:05 p.m.

Daniel Buskirk, Ph.D., P.A.S.
MSU Assoc. Professor/Beef Extension Specialist

Like a pendulum, beef cattle selection has seen big swings from one extreme to another. Current buzz is that cows are too big and small cows should be the rage. Commercial producers often seem overwhelmed by the sea of EPDs, yet repeatedly maintain laser focus on selecting for lighter and lighter birth weights. This presentation will discuss selection strategies that focus on "optimal" and avoiding the temptation of chasing extremes.

Register online at

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

Registration Fee: \$10

Please make checks payable to

Michigan State University

Number of attendees: _____

I (we) will attend: _____

Escanaba Harrison Ionia
 Gaylord

Check Number Enclosed: _____

Total registration fee: _____

Mail to:
Michigan State University Extension
 50 E. Sprague Rd
 Ionia, MI 48846
 Attn: Janice Ransom





**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension**

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)
Creative Commons 2.0

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

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.

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.



MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity institution. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

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.

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 | Extension
UNIVERSITY



Conference Agenda:

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 Talmesin 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.

Registration:

- 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 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:

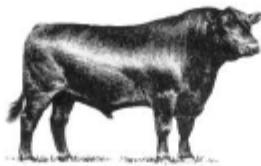
Friday, March 2, 2018

(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 con-
tacting 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



2018 Michigan Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Clinics

The MSU Beef Extension Team will once again be organizing regional Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Clinics. Last year, the program tested over 300 bulls for 110 different operations. By identifying these potential male fertility problems, producers were able to reduce the risk of a less than optimum breeding season. The MSUE Beef Team encourages you to have BSE conducted on your breeding bulls every year. Contact your veterinarian or take advantage of the following Breeding Soundness Exam Clinics organized by MSUE. Cost is \$60 per bull when done at one of the MSUE clinics. To schedule an appointment at one of these BSE clinics, please call the appropriate contact person as soon as possible. All Clinics start at 9:00 AM. In addition, the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine regularly schedules in house appointments for BSE's. To schedule an appointment contact the MSU CVM Large Animal Clinic at 517-353-9710.

- Location:** Gary Voogt Farm, 2831 Hayes St, Marne MI
Date: Friday, March 9th, 2018
Contact: Kevin Gould @ 616-527-5357 or Gary Voogt @ 616-677-3680
- Location:** Matt Miller Farm, 2685 E. Bellevue Rd, Charlotte MI
Date: Friday, March 23rd, 2018
Contact: Beadle Lake Veterinary Clinic @ 269-441-9233
- Location:** MSU Beef Expo, MSU Pavilion, East Lansing MI
Date: Thursday April 5th, 2018 from 1-4 PM
Contact: Dan Grooms or Jen Roberts @ 517-355-9593
- Location:** MSU Lake City Experiment Station, 5401 W. Jennings Road, Lake City MI
Date: Friday, April 13th, 2018
Contact: Kable Thurlow @ 989-426-7741 or Doug Carmichael @ 231-839-4608
- Location:** Breault Beef Farm, 868 Hoffman Road, Gladwin MI
Date: Friday, April 20th, 2018
Contact: Kable Thurlow @ 989-426-7741
- Location:** Kevin Wernette Farm, 9144 50TH AVE, Remus MI
Date: Saturday, April 21st, 2018
Contact: Kevin Gould @ 616-527-5357 or Dr. Kevin Todd 231-832-3680
- Location:** Chuck Preston Farm, 4780 County Line Road, Prescott MI
Date: Saturday, April 28th, 2018
Contact: Phil Durst @ 989-387-5346 or Chuck Preston @ 989-873-4164

Beef Bull Buying Season is Here

“The cheapest bull to buy is the most expensive one to own” a wise old county agent’s advice from years ago that still holds true today.

Great Lakes Beef Connection Bull Sale, March 10, Noon, Clare, MI.

<http://jcsimmentals.com/>

MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Sale, March 17, Crystal, MI,

<http://www.mibulls.com/>

Michigan Beef Expo, April 6 – 8, East Lansing, MI.,

<https://www.micattlemen.org/michiganbeefexpo.aspx>

