



UP Ag Connections

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As I See It ..

Congratulations to Max and Susan Macaulay of McMillan for being recognized as a Centennial Farm. It is pretty amazing to keep the farm in the same family as a farm for 100 years. Again – Congratulations to the Macaulay's . Please give my office a call when special recognitions like this come to your attention. There is a LOT of good news out there but I need your help to spread good news about agriculture in the UP. Thanks

Just in case you missed it, Chuck and Patti Bergdahl, dairy farmers in Skandia, were featured in a large color photo in the July issue of the Wisconsin Agri-View as part of an advertisement for an udder treatment product. It's nice to see UP producers being recognized for quality dairy herds no matter what the occasion. Way to go Bergdahls.

A couple months ago I sent out a goat survey but did not get a lot of replies. We do have a growing interest in goats in the UP but it mostly seems to be the back yard / small farm activity with a nine goat farm average, range 2-24 head. There were both meat and milk goats, with many farms having both. There was a lot of interest in having more educational meetings and maybe forming some type of organization. Health issues and marketing are the two largest areas of interest. The bottom line is that I will try to have at least one or two meetings in multiple locations around the UP that will focus on basic animal husbandry issues. These meetings will be multi-species as we have a lot of producers who are starting new animal enterprises, from goats to dairy cows and of course sheep and beef cattle. The goal of these meetings will be informational, networking with other producers and of course, always looking for ways to increase profitable marketing opportunities. Call with your interest and ideas.

Not all news or lessons are good ones. Another UP producer had his cattle herd suffer lead toxicity this spring due to access to old car/truck batteries. This producer lost about four cows and three calves. I also worked with another producer a couple of years ago who lost about seven mid~late gestation dairy heifers from lead toxicity when they got into batteries. The important issue is that in both cases, these were pastures that had been used for many years with no problems. The batteries were there and with some site disturbance for various reasons, the curious cattle ate parts of the batteries. The symptoms of acute lead toxicity is sudden death and unfortunately, it is often multiple animals. There are not effective treatments. For those animals that did not get lethal dose, they may be quarantined and not be able to be sold (until blood levels go down) because they would not be safe for human consumption. I am sure most of you are saying "it can't happen to you", but old batteries, paint cans, and other "junk" are a common find "out back" in just about every UP

farm. I put my rams in an old roadway/ fence row to clean things up and when I checked them to see if they still had pasture, what did I see setting on the old rock pile in the fence row but an old, mostly rotten down battery. You could just recognize the cells because the case was broken off and gone. Don't assume, check your pastures.

Don't overlook the 'Life's a Birch' article by Bill Cook. It's a great "big picture" look at how Mother Nature works. We sometimes think we can control the world we live in, but in reality, Mother Nature just keeps trucking along. People like to see the birch forest and when they prevent forest fires to keep the birch they are really creating a future without birch trees. Unfortunately for man, many of these changes take place over many years and we don't realize what we are doing until the change has occurred. The current economic situation, especially in the dairy industry, is extremely frustrating and stressful. But, like the birch forest, the situation has to work itself out. A quote I saw in the Progressive Dairyman is probably the best advice I have seen. They suggested "...our own personal survival depends upon doing our best in the thing we control. We cannot affect price, but we can take care of how price affects us. And we can do that ourselves and do it now."

Due to a special family event, I am going to miss the UP Fair and the chance to visit with many of you this year. Sorry to miss you but this time, family comes first.

Have a great fair and enjoy the rest of summer. Ben

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MARKET REPORT (7/22/09)

By Ben Bartlett, MSUE Dairy and Livestock Agent

Market Ready Prices

Choice Steers	\$78-\$83	per 100 lbs.
Holstein Steers	\$70-\$77	per 100 lbs.
Hogs	\$35-\$48	per 100 lbs.
Lambs	\$95-\$105	per 100 lbs.
Cull cows	\$40-\$50	per 100 lbs.

Breeding and Feeder Animals

Grade Holstein cows	\$1000 - 1500	per head
Grade Holstein bred heifers	\$900 - 1300	per head
Deacon calves (Mich. Market)	\$50 - \$100	per 100 #

"Farm Account" Feed Prices across the UP

	Avg. \$/cwt	Avg. \$/ton	Price Range
Corn	\$ 9.50	\$201.00	\$170-200
Soymeal	\$22.30	\$423.00	\$400-430
Oats	\$11.00	\$221.00	\$210-230
Barley	\$10.80	\$219.00	\$199-230

Average price/100 wt. for 1 ton lots

Dairy Heifer Prices Continue to Decline

Low milk prices and poor margins for milk producers are weighing limiting demand for springing heifers. The top end of reported prices for supreme springing heifers in the most recent auction was \$1375, while the bottom of the range was as low as \$800. In the one auction reporting heifer calf sales, the top end price was only \$200.

Springing Heifers

	Supreme/Top	Approved/Med
Escalon, CA	1100-1300	900-1050
Ithaca, WI	1100-1375	800-1100
S. Springs, TX	800-1200	600-800
New Holland	1175-1400	1100-1275

Crop Deadline Extended

Farm Service Agency announced an extension of the acreage reporting deadline. The annual deadline of July 15th has been extended to **August 14, 2009**.

- ⊙ August 14th is the deadline to report your crop acreage for 2009.
- ⊙ If you have not reported your crop production for previous years, August 14th is the deadline as well.
- ⊙ Notify the FSA office of any changes in land ownership.
- ⊙ Keep good records of your production for 2009.
- ⊙ **NOTIFY THE FSA IF YOU SUSPECT A LOSS IN NAY CROP THAT YOU HAVE NAP INSURANCE ON.** You will have 15 days from the final harvest date or when the loss becomes apparent to notify the office and be eligible for payment. Don't wait to notify us!!

BVD Report

The spring rush generated over 1500 samples in one month. Thank you for all your participation. Unfortunately or maybe "fortunately" we found another positive herd with one positive cow and two positive calves. The positive cow had delivered a normal looking calf this spring that died soon after birth and was notched as dead calf. The other positive calf was notched right after the dead calf and we wondered if maybe it was just a contaminated (not cleaned between calves) notcher. It is still a good idea when you are notching cattle to wipe the notcher clean with an alcohol or another disinfectant. The cattle were positive on retest. Please note that any positive animals are always re-tested to make sure the cattle are truly persistently infected.

I know most everyone is busy with hay and other summer activities. We will be contacting people again this fall to both sign up new farms and to check on everyone's testing progress.

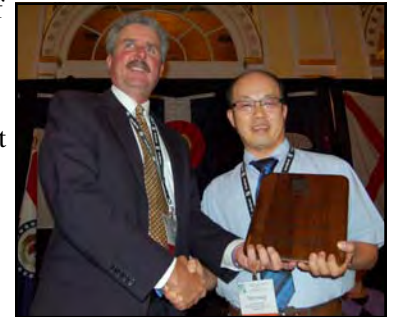
- Ben

Min Wins Merit

A few weeks ago, I told you about my experience at the American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC) annual meeting in Grand Rapids. I learned later that Doo-Hong Min received the organization's merit award at the meeting after I left. - Dr. Tom Coon, Extension Director

Min is a dedicated MSU Extension forage specialist who has developed a very active and effective forage research and Extension program in Michigan. He is active in the Michigan Forage Council and its programs, and is a regular presenter at AFGC and other forage-related events. Min works very closely with producers and the public in Michigan, particularly the Upper Peninsula, to make forage-based animal systems more sustainable economically and environmentally, and to improve the quality of human life. Recently, Min has been focusing on bioenergy crop research and Extension to ultimately boost the rural economy and slow down the global warming process.

Congratulations to a deserving individual!



Richard Armin Breyer

Richard Armin "Dick" Breyer, 79, formerly of Tapiola and L'Anse and recently of Ada, Mich. and Sun City, Ariz., passed away on June 1, 2009, at his home in Sun City.

In 1966, he began a career as an agricultural extension director for the MSU Cooperative Extension Service, serving initially in Baraga County. In 1973, he accepted the equivalent position in Menominee County. He later served MSU in broad regional capacities until his retirement in 1990. After he retired, he was on the U.P. State Fair Board for two consecutive five-year terms. Our sympathies to family and friends.

Switchgrass Twilight Walk in Kingsford

Why: There will be a switchgrass twilight walk as part of MSU Extension Regional Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs). The switchgrass field was established by Allan Bilski and Marsha Bertoldi in Kingsford on June 21, 2008 and they are going to share how they established switchgrass successfully for bioenergy purposes. This is one of the best switchgrass sites in the UP as on-farm trial. Light snacks will be provided and it is open to farmers and the general public.

When; August 13th, 2009 (6 – 8 pm central time)

Where; 2.75 miles north of US 2 on Upper Pine Creek Road (which is just east of Verso Paper), east of Iron Mountain. There will be a sign on the road pointing to the field.

For more information, please contact Ann Hruska at 906-774-8441, Dr. Doo-Hong Min at 906-439-5188 or the hosting county office (Beth Waitrovich at 906-774-0363).

Michigan AgrAbility

Farming is never easy, but farming with a disability can be an almost impossible task at times. Whether it's a chronic condition such as arthritis, or an injury such as an amputation, Michigan AgriAbility can work with farmers to show them how to continue to farm safely and effectively. The statewide, grant funded program has worked with over 180 farmers in 56 counties, with most continuing to work independently.

Michigan AgriAbility, one of 22 state programs under the USDA funding, is a collaboration of five state agencies. Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Farm Bureau, Easter Seals– Michigan, United Cerebral Palsy Michigan, and Michigan Rehabilitation Services join forces to provide the informative, free service.

The program is at no cost to the farmer, and an on-farm visit usually lasts a few hours. An agricultural engineer goes out and evaluates how the farmer's condition is affecting his or her ability to work. After visiting with the farmer and seeing the operation, clients are provided with a comprehensive report on assistive technology or modifications that are appropriate for their operation. Some examples include added steps and automatic lifts, modified hand controls, drive through gates, and modified tractor seats. Staff then works with the farmer to implement the recommendations and ensure the equipment is working well.

For more information about the Michigan AgrAbility Project call toll-free at 800-956-4106. Information is also available online at www.michiganagrability.org



Cattlemen's Boot Camp

The American Angus Association and the Department of Animal Science are hosting a Cattlemen's Boot Camp on the campus of MSU on **September 22-23**. This day and a half program will include lecture and hands-on training opportunities. Listed below are a few of the classes offered:

- ⊙ Fundamentals of Grazing Management
- ⊙ Accessing Genetic Abnormalities: Update
- ⊙ Understanding Cattle Behavior and Handling
- ⊙ Cattle Evaluation
- ⊙ Refining Reproductive Performance
- ⊙ Adding Value through Source Verification
- ⊙ Evaluation Carcasses
- ⊙ Marketing Through Branded Programs
- ⊙ Effective Herd Health Programs
- ⊙ Communicating a Positive Image in the Industry
- ⊙ Q & A with the American Angus Association

There will also be hands-on labs for tagging, tattooing and freeze branding, cattle processing, injections, implanting, and body condition scoring.

Trips are also planned to the MSU Purebred Beef Center, MSU Pavillion, and MSU Meats Lab.

Pre-registration is required by September 1st.

Complete registration information is available at www.angus.org. You can see the tentative schedule at www.canr.msu.edu/anscikids/livestock.html or call Ken Geuns at 517-353-2924 for details.

Building Soil for Better Food

Michigan growers can learn about building soil quality and improving its fertility during a two-day workshop set for **August 14-15** at Morgan Composting in Sears, MI from 9-4:30 each day.

"Building Soil for Better Food" will feature educational sessions by researchers and expert farmers, a tour of the composting facility, trade show and demonstration of equipment including compost spreaders, hoophouse for transplants and vegetable production and equipment for industrial scale compost production.

In addition to the trade show there will be field demonstrations of equipment for vegetable growers interested in expanding their operations on Saturday and compost and spreading equipment that is appropriate for crop farmers on Friday.

Participants may wish to attend one or both days. The one-day registration is \$30 prior to Aug. 10. After that date it is \$40. The two-day registration rate is \$50 before Aug. 15 and \$60 after that date.

Register online at www.michiganorganic.msu.edu or call Vicki Morrone, CS Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems at 517-353-3542.

Life's a Birch

What's killing all the birch?!

As the only forester in a group of Boundary Waters adventurers, the eyes turned to me. The north shore of Minnesota has long stretches of dead and dying birch stands. My short answer was simply; "old age". The whole story is a bit longer.

Paper birch is a short-lived species that requires lots of sunlight to grow and survive. The seeds are small and light. They need bare mineral soil exposed so that the germinating roots can penetrate to the nutrients.

In nature, wildfire provides the proper seed bed for birch regeneration. Around 75-80 years ago, fires blazed up and down the coast. Birch took advantage of this ecological opportunity and pioneered these freshly exposed sites. However, birch only live about 75-80 years. They've hit the end of their natural lifespan and are now dying by the thousands.

Fire, of course, could once again provide the conditions to regenerate the birch. However, fire has been excluded from this landscape. The urban rich have built second homes up and down the coastline, removing fire as a practical option, even if the weather and policy conditions prevailed.

Forest management could also provide the ecological conditions needed by birch. Minnesota foresters led the research efforts in birch regeneration strategies. However, that involves heavy harvesting and exposing the soil. It's too late for that in most places, now that most of the birches are just rotting stubs piercing the canopy of hazel brush. There's little left to harvest and produce seed. Too late.

Besides, the urban rich, along with the droves of Boundary Waters trekkers, would object to harvesting. It would be too unsightly. As if the dead forest isn't? I can hear the cries of the offended in my imagination soon followed by threats of litigation from an incensed Twin Cities lawyer. It's too much for a simple forester.

So, with the lack of both fire and forest management, most of the forest will be gone for decades. The dense hazel cover will prevent reasonable stocking for an indeterminate time into the future. There is no new forest at this time. Maybe my grandchildren might, once again, see a forest along this coast. For now, at least you get good views of Lake Superior from the highway.

We have these similar sorts of forest issues in Michigan. Most our birch have also succumbed to old age. Fortunately for us, other tree species have grown under and taken over these former birch sites. For us, the geriatric forest types are more along the lines of oak, aspen, and jack pine. Many of these stands suffer from benign neglect.

Some of these acres will regenerate naturally into some other forest type. Many of the acres, without the sort of disturbance programmed into the genetics of these forest types, will be lost to brush, savannah, and recreational housing. Perhaps, an insect or disease epidemic will take these old forests.

In forest ecology, there is no such thing as "no choice". Doing "nothing" has predictable ecological outcomes, not all of which are natural. Many of which are undesirable.

I explained all of this to my group of fellow canoeists. I saw their eyes begin to glaze over. One guy noted that the question didn't require a Wikipedia response, and then asked Bob to pass the granola bag. I guess they just weren't that interested. And, so it goes.

- Bill Cook, MSUE Forester

For Sale Listings

- ⊙ 5000 grass mix square bales.
John Talsma Bruce Crossing 906-827-3827
- ⊙ 500 round bales. Alfalfa/ grass mix, 1st cutting, no rain.
John Miron 906-384-6541 or 384-6530
- ⊙ 2000 good grass square bales.
Tim Anderson Ontonagon 906-884-2684
- ⊙ 50 - 900# mixed hay round bales. Stored inside.
⊙ Several hundred square bales.
Andrew Cesario Eben 906-439-5902
- ⊙ Dairy quality hay— Round & Square bales. Also good quality horse square bales.
Dick Pershinske Engadine 906-477-6642
- ⊙ 1000+ Lg. Square bales. All qualities from premium grade dairy hay to horse hay.
Monty Tuinstra Farms 906-753-4913 (leave message)
- ⊙ 1 Black Angus cow, 1 Red Angus cow, and 1 Black Angus heifer for sale.
Bill Pirman Marquette Co. 906-942-7230

Iron County Conservation District Field Day

On **August 15**, beginning at 9:00 a.m., a "Field Day" will begin at Tony Kudwa's woodlot (turn south on Bible Camp Road, left on Idlewild Road, his residence is on Leppiaho Rd., immediately north of Idlewild). One can see how he has successfully controlled the invasive species, Buckthorn, with technical assistance provided by Tom Berndt, of the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Buckthorn has been slowly invading and taking over woodlots in the Iron River, Crystal Falls, and Alpha areas.

The next stop will be at Dave Stanek's farm at Buck Lake to view a no-till planting site done with the district's zip seeder. The District rents out the seeder each spring to farmers who choose to plant using this no-till method.

The final stop will be at Maureen Elson's property where she maintains a "market garden". She has been researching possibilities for people involved in naturally-grown produce to become certified. Soil enhancements and the proposed certification program will be discussed, among other items of interest.

Refreshments will be served. If anyone has any questions, s/he should contact Gail Dalpra, Administrator, at the Iron Conservation District, Crystal Falls, at 875-3765.



Tally Time

Results from the NAHMS BEEF 2007-08 survey of cow-calf management practices indicate that 54.5% of operations accounting for 34.1% of cows have no defined breeding season. Use of a single breeding season was indicated by 34% of operations or 48.4% of cows. Of those that used one breeding season, 60.8% of operations and 61.8% of cows had a breeding season of 105 days or less. Roughly a quarter used a breeding season of 64 days or less. An analysis of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico SPA data showed that for each day the breeding season was extended, the annual cost to produce a hundred pounds of weaned calf was increased by 5 cents and the pounds of calf weaned per cow per year decreased by about .2 pounds.

A shorter 45 day breeding season can be used with an estrous cycle synchronization program and still maintain the pregnancy rate of a 60 day season. The advantage of estrous synchronization on calf weaning weights is often confounded with genetic differences in AI versus natural service sires. A recent summary of data from the University of Nebraska compared data from 60 day non-synchronization (6 years, 2075 records) and 45 day synchronized (2 years, 521 records) breeding seasons both using natural service sires. Compared to the 60 day season, 12% more calves were born in the first 21 days of the calving season and the average weaning weight was 20 lbs greater for the 45 day synchronized breeding season. The synchronization system used was a single injection of prostaglandin F_{2α} (around \$2 per dose) given 108 hours after bull turn out. Recommendations for this synchronization system include a cow to bull ratio of 25 to 1 or less and use of mature bulls that have passed a breeding soundness exam.

Past years of harsh winter conditions and dry summer conditions may have resulted in longer and/or more spread out calving seasons. While grass growth was slower earlier in the spring due to cooler conditions in some parts of the state, current moisture conditions should allow for much improved forage response which should in turn help cow rebreeding performance. Good pasture conditions should make this a better than average year to consider shortening the breeding period if your calving distribution records or other information so indicate. In most cases shortening an extended breeding season should be done gradually, a week to two weeks per year.

If individual calving dates are not recorded, information on number of calves born per week or month can still be used to examine the current situation. If pregnancy diagnosis is used to estimate expected calving distribution, remember the accuracy of estimating stage of pregnancy drops considerably after 120 days of pregnancy.

Tally Time Reminder

Timely numbers to record

- ⊙ Number of cows and heifers exposed to bulls
- ⊙ Date bulls in and out
- ⊙ Body condition of cows at bull turn out
- ⊙ Pasture usage and precipitation

-Sandy Johnson, livestock specialist

Dairy Cow Transition Checklist

Here are a few of the highlights of an excellent article on that most critical time in a cow's life, going from "vacation to full employment". Over 10% of all cows leave the herd in the first 60 days of production due to culling, death, or rarely sale for dairy purposes. The key issues that need to be monitored include:

Grouping and pen movement

- ⊙ Avoid extra pen moves and especially about 10 days before calving, all to keep DMI up and social stress down
- ⊙ Separate heifers and old cows when possible, allowing less feed competition and possible higher protein rations to heifers.
- ⊙ Keep 100% bunk space available to maximize feed intake
- ⊙ Maintain clean and dry environment, critical for mastitis and calf health management

Nutritional Issues

- ⊙ Have rations reviewed for protein, energy and fiber levels
- ⊙ Monitor feed intake— need greater than 26# for Holstein cows, 23# for heifers, 18# for Jersey cows.
- ⊙ If milk fever has been an issue, check urine pH
- ⊙ Monitor feed intake of fresh cows and keep bunk space at 100% for first 14-21 days.

Cow Comfort

- ⊙ Early fresh cows are at most risk for lameness and have most production stress, provide clean, dry and comfortable resting places.
- ⊙ Keep pen moves and social stress to a minimum.

Bottom Line— Transition cows are your future paycheck and a little extra care and management can pay big dividends. With limited resources today, make sure the cows that are most important for your operation are getting the attention they need. **If you would like to see the whole article visit our newsletter web site or call us for a copy.**

- Ben

NAP – 2010 Application Closing Dates

Has a natural disaster like drought, excessive rain, or high winds caused crop losses or prevented planting? Did this impact your bottom line? Crops not insurable under Risk Management Agency CAT Crop Insurance are covered under NAP and can be purchased for \$250 per crop and a maximum of \$750 per county! **The DEADLINE for purchasing your 2010 policies are as follows:**

8/30/09: Aquaculture, Nursery Crops, Christmas Trees, & Grass Sod

9/30/09: Mixed Hay, Alfalfa, Pasture, Rye, Seed Crops, and Fall Speltz

11/20/09: Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Raspberries, & Strawberries

12/1/09: Honey and Maple Sap

3/15/10: Peas, Oats/Barley for Forage, Sorghum, Beans, Potatoes, Triticale, Vegetable Crops, and Corn in some counties.

If you grow a crop not listed here – call the office for the closing dates!

Grazing with Gerrish

I attended the pasture walks at the Bison farm in Wisconsin and at the John and Donna Ahlberg beef farm in Iron River and it was well worth my time. It is always valuable to get off the farm and see what is being accomplished by other people and to hear an old friend, Jim Gerrish, talk about grazing practices. Jim was at the U of Missouri doing grazing research but is now in Idaho grazing cattle and also has a busy grazing consulting business. I have worked with grazing for over 25 years but the **knowledge** of how to do the best possible job of grazing is always changing just like in any other management system. Here are two take home messages that I “brought home” to my grazing operation. #1 – When we went to frequent moves from paddock to paddock, we grazed the pasture down to about 2 to 4” high. This system works in high and consistent rainfall areas, but a better system for our inconsistent rainfall area is to **leave more residue**. Actually, we are back to the old rule of thumb, where you take half and leave half. That is grazing about 60% down since the top of plants is a lot thinner than the foliage near the ground. This is important for two reasons, it leaves some green leaves so that photosynthesis can more quickly get the plant regrowing and it very positively impacts the level of root die back. When plants are grazed short, over 50% removal, most of the roots “die back” and it greatly impacts the plant’s ability to capture moisture and soil nutrients. The other principal that is critical, is to **have numerous paddocks** so you can move your grazing livestock and give the plants a chance to regrow and replenish their root reserves/ grow more roots. Jim said he would like to see us make two turns in our grazing before plants put up a mature and unpalatable seed head. With orchard grass, that starting grazing on May ~ 5 and making two rounds by June 1. I have got to think about that one but it reinforces the need to put your livestock together to keep life simple and move then often/frequently to optimize plant health and growth and therefore, pasture productivity.

I am planning to attend a mob grazing seminar in August where a fellow is moving cattle up to six times per day. NO, I don’t think that is appropriate for very many people but the impact it has on the land will be very interesting. Stay tuned for more grazing knowledge updates. And A big thank you to the Ahlbergs for hosting the pasture walk.
-Ben

Forage Brassicas for Fall Grazing

This year’s spring and summer weather has been usually cool and dry in most parts of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Thus, it’s expected that forage/pasture production would be low and some producers may have to buy more hay or sell their young calves. One of the ways to deal with this kind of situation is to extend the fall grazing season with forage brassicas (i.e. turnip, forage rape, and kale). Forage brassicas are not expensive to establish, are easy to establish, and maintain their forage quality well into late fall even under some snow cover.

Following are production practices for forage brassicas:

Soil: Forage brassicas require good soil drainage and soil pH should be in the range of 5.5 to 7.0. These crops do not do well in heavy clay soils with poor drainage.

Planting: Brassicas can be planted with either no-till or conventional tillage. Oats or rye can also be seeded with forage brassicas. Seed size of brassica is very small, so seeding depth should not be deeper than 0.5 inches.

Seeding Rate: Seeding rate can vary depending on seed size, for example, turnip seed should be planted at 1.5 lbs per acre and larger seed, such as forage rape, at 3 – 4 lbs per acre.

Seeding Date: Since we are located in the northern latitude, planting should be done by mid-August to have good stand establishment resulting in good forage yields.

Fertilization: Since forage brassicas are heavy feeders of nitrogen, 100 lbs of nitrogen per acre is recommended. The amount of P and K fertilizer should be based on soil tests.

Varieties: Based on the study done at the Upper Peninsula Experiment Station in Chatham, there was yield difference in species as well as varieties within same species. Dynamo and Barkant turnip and Interval, Barnapoli, and Dwarf forage rape were good varieties. Pasja hybrid forage brassica was also a good variety. Dry matter yields obtained in Chatham ranged from 1.5 to 2.0 tons per acre when forage brassicas were planted in early August.

Pasture Utilization: Forage brassicas can be ready to graze about 65 – 75 days after planting and grazing can continue until heavy snow cover and low temperatures kill the forage brassicas (usually 10 °F or lower). There will be very minimal or no regrowth after first grazing in the fall and strip grazing practice can be used to control the forage brassicas more effectively by reducing the waste from trampling.

-By Dr. Doo-Hong Min, Extension Forage Specialist, MSU UPES

U.P. Agriculture Connection

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August Events

- 2nd **Sheep Picnic** 1:00pm Rudyard 906-439-5880 x 3
- 4-6 **Basic Cheese Making** E. Lansing Call 517-355-7713 x 179
- 13 **Switchgrass Twilight Walk** 6-8 pm Kingsford Call 906-774-8441 or 906-439-5188
- 13-16 **Marquette County Fair** Marquette
- 14-15 **Building Soil for Better Food** Sears, MI 517-353-3542
- 15th **Iron Co. Conservation District Field Day** 9:00 am Iron Co. Call 906-875-3765
- 18-23 **UP State Fair** Escanaba
- 20-23 **Gogebic County Fair** Ironwood
- 20-23 **Iron County Fair** Iron River
- 26-30 **Luce West Mackinac Fair** Newberry
- 27-29 **Schoolcraft County Fair** Manistque
- 27-30 **Houghton County Fair** Hancock
- 30-9/7 **Chippewa County Fair** Kinross

September Events

- 22-23 **Cattlemen’s Boot Camp** E. Lansing 517-353-2924