

# Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference

## Tuesday, March 6, 2012 - Bay College, Escanaba, MI

9:30 - 10:00 <sub>(EST)</sub>	Registration / Educational Exhibits				
10:00 - 11:00	A-1 Yes, You Can! <small>(Food Preservation)</small>	A-2 On-Farm Grain Storage and Handling	A-3 Raising Dairy Steer Calves in U.P.	A-4 Northern Vines (Wine/Vinology)	A-5 High Quality Silage Making For Corn and Alfalfa
11:15 - 12:15	B-7 Cottage Food Law and Beyond	B-8 Get the Most Out of Your Combine	B-9 Process Feed Dairy Nutrition	B-10 Agritourism & Direct Marketing: Are They For You?	B-11 Cover Crop Selections for the U.P
12:15 - 1:45	<b>Lunch</b> Keynote Speaker: Gary Sipiorski, Dairy Development Manager at Vita Plus Corp.				
1:45 - 2:45	C-13 Partnership for Healthy Eating: Older Michiganians and Farmers	C-14 Commodity Grains in the U.P.	C-15 Dairy Lameness	C-16 A Look at Direct to Consumer Farms in the UP: Results of the UP Ag Assessment	C-17 Principles of Managed Grazing
3:00 - 4:00	D-19 Road to Independence <small>(Business Planning)</small>	D-20 Growing corn for grain in the U.P.	D-21 Grazing Idle Acres	D-22 Chicken Talk: What's The Scratch?	D-23 Noxious and Invasive Weeds in U.P. Fields

= These sessions approved for MAEAP Phase 1 credit

### Registration Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost of attendance is \$25 pre-registration  
(due by Feb. 25—no phone registrations accepted).**

**After Feb. 25 the registration fee will be \$35 per person at the door.**

**Fee includes lunch and materials.**

**Number of attendees \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_**

**For more information contact:** Mary Ellen -906-387-2530, email: msue.alger@county.msu.edu

**Please indicate by session number which  
four sessions you plan to attend:**

A \_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**  
MSU Extension

**Send check and form to:**  
MSUE Alger County  
E9526 Prospect Street, Suite 1  
Munising, MI 49862

**Receipts will be available at the door.**

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. 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 orientations, marital status, family status or veteran status. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling 906-786-3032 at least one week prior to the scheduled event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.

10:00-11:00

**A-1: Yes, You Can!** *Lucia Patriitto, Extension Educator* Home food preservation is a great way to have quick, nutritious, and tasty foods on hand for your family. This session will focus on appropriate equipment and techniques necessary to use a hot-water bath to safely preserve higher-acid foods.

**A-2: On-Farm Grain Storage and Handling** (MAEAP– approved) *David Draisma, Zook Farm Equipment, Inc., Alto, MI* Would your farm operation benefit from improved grain storage and handling facilities? Learn from an experienced industry professional about the advantages of on-farm storage, system component choices, typical costs, and what it takes to make the investment pay off.

**A-3: Raising Dairy Steer Calves in U.P.** *Steve Rust, MSU* Dairy calves weighing less than 500 pounds require rations with high percentage of energy concentrate feeds. This session will address the use of alternative grains that are commonly grown in the UP. Also, learn general management of raising dairy steers up to 500 pounds.

**A-4: Northern Vines** *Dave Anthony, Anthony Vineyards and Michigan Grape and Wine Council; Dan McCole, MSU* Wine doesn't only come from the warmer climates of California, Italy or France. Successful wine making and wine industry is happening everywhere from Minnesota to Latvia. Participants will learn the ins and outs of northern vinology and the possibilities it holds as an agricultural venture in the U.P

**A-5: High Quality Silage Making For Corn and Alfalfa** (MAEAP– approved) *Dr. Doo-Hong Min, MSU Extension Forage Specialist* Corn and alfalfa are still very important forage crops for dairy production in the UP. Factors to be considered making high quality silage will be discussed.

11:15-12:15

**B-7: Cottage Food Law and Beyond** *Beth Waitrovich, Extension Educator* The training will focus on the 2010 Cottage Food Law guidelines including: gross income from sales allowed, foods permitted to sell; food safety procedures including production, labeling, packaging, and storage and transportation of your products. In addition, there will information on next steps to taking your product to the retail level.

**B-8: Get the Most Out of Your Combine** *Jerry Jensen, service technician, Riesterer & Schnell, Inc., Pound, WI* Efficient grain harvest and avoiding breakdowns becomes critical at harvest time. Make sure your (old or new) combine set-up and maintenance program is up to snuff. Mr. Jensen is an experienced service professional who has worked on combines for 25+ years.

**B-9: Processing Grain and Forage to Improve Digestibility in Dairy Rations** *Mike Allen, MSU* Grinding and chopping of grains and forages to proper particle size and length has a critical effect on the feed digestibility. In this session learn how to determine proper processing techniques and how to determine if feeds are properly processed for optimum digestibility.

**B-10: Agritourism & Direct Marketing: Are They For You?** *Michelle Walk, MSU Extension* Agricultural tourism, is a growing segment of U.S. tourism. Encompassing everything from a visit at a farm stand to a week-long stay at a farm, agritourism is an excellent way to bolster a rural economy. The U. P. already draws visitors eager to see the beauty of our natural resources. Inviting them to see local food production on farms is a logical next step. Find out which of the many agritourism options might work for you and how best to direct market your farm.

**B-11: Cover Crop Selections for the U.P** (MAEAP– approved) *MSU Cover Crop Team led by Dr. Dale Mutch, Michigan State University Specialist* Cover crop selection can be a challenge for short growing seasons. This live webinar will address cover crop selection as well as planting guidelines. Extension Educators will be available to answer questions.

**Lunch Speaker:** Gary Sipiorski, Vita-Plus Corp., writer & speaker from Wis. Former Ag loan officer & advisory committee for fed. reserve bank of Chicago.

1:45-2:45

**C-13: Partnership for Healthy Eating: Older Michiganians and Farmers** *Sherri King, MA, Coordinator, Nutrition & Wellness Programs* This session will cover a brief history of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. It will give an overview to farmers and market masters of how the program operates and "What's In It for Them". Enrollment materials will be available at the session.

**C-14: Commodity Grains in the U.P.** *Jim Isleib and Warren Schauer, MSU Extension* Strong grain prices may provide a reason to reconsider raising grain as a cash crop in the U.P. Wheat, oats, barley, rye, field peas, dry beans, or sunflowers may present opportunities. Production information and enterprise budgets specific to the U.P. will be presented. Corn (grain or silage) and soybeans are NOT included in this session.

**C-15: Preventing and Treating Lameness in Dairy Cattle** *Kent Ames, MSU* Lameness in dairy cows steals profits. This session will address identification of early lameness and treatment protocols to keep cows milking with minimum milk production losses. This session will also address hoof care and trimming to prevent lameness.

**C-16: A Look at Direct to Consumer Farms in the UP: Results of the UP Ag Assessment** *Natasha Lantz, Marquette Food Co-op & Nancy Nyquist, MDARD* What is the current state of small farms in the U.P.? What are other producers doing? What are the difficulties? What help is available? In this overview of the data collected during the U.P. Agriculture Assessment, a survey of farms that sell directly to consumers conducted in 2011, learn about the ways in which U.P. farmers are part of a renaissance in small-scale production and the potential for building community around food security.

**C-17: Principles of Managed Grazing** (MAEAP– approved) *Betsy Dierberger, NRCS State Grassland & Forage Specialist* Learn more about adopting a prescribed grazing system. Find out which conservation practices can help your grazing management and how to implement them on your farm. Use fence and water systems to better manage pasture utilization. Learn options for supplying water. Become more aware of the conditions you should be monitoring to make decisions on your grazing plan.

3:00-4:00

**D-19: Road to Independence** *Ann Chastain, Innovation Counselor, MSU Product Center* This workshop will answer the basic questions you have about starting a business: Why is a business plan important? Is a product or service needed? What are important financial considerations? and What are additional resources available?

**D-20: Growing corn for grain in the U.P.** (MAEAP– approved) *Scott Reuss, Agriculture Agent, Marinette County, UW Extension* Improved, short-season hybrids and high grain market prices are making shelled corn a more realistic crop option for many U.P. farms. Would it pay for you to raise your own corn grain? This session will provide agronomic and economic information to help you decide

**D-21: Grazing Idle Acres** (MAEAP– approved) *Frank Wardynski and Warren Schauer, MSU Extension* The Upper Peninsula has an abundance of idle or under-utilized farmland acres. Many of these acres have poor soil fertility or other characteristics that are not conducive for profitable crop production. Learn in this session the economics of starting a grazing operation and budget enterprises of various livestock species. Also learn grazing management techniques specific to grazing previously unproductive lands and learn how to develop grazing practices to improve land productivity and producing high quality meat protein.

**D-22: Chicken Talk: What's The Scratch?** *Rowan Bunce, Rock River Farm & a MDARD staff member* Have you ever wondered about raising and processing your own chickens? What licensing is needed to process and sell your product? Discover techniques for housing and feeding as well as how to legally process and sell chickens straight from your own farm. A knowledgeable and experienced panel will share the secrets of successfully raising poultry for profit.

**D-23: Noxious and Invasive Weeds in U.P. Fields** (MAEAP– approved) *Jim Isleib, MSUE U.P. Crop Production Educator* These weeds can be problems, especially in no-till systems and hay fields. Knowing life cycles, identification resources and control measures will help you get on top of the struggle.