

11TH ANNUAL
NORTHERN MICHIGAN SMALL FARM CONFERENCE

Friday, January 29, 2010
 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Grayling High School
 1135 N. Old 27

AND

Saturday, January 30, 2010
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Grayling High School
 1135 N. Old 27



Friday Evening Keynote Speaker - Melinda Hemmelgarn

Thinking Beyond Our Plates: Critical Questions to Find Food Truth

Saturday Keynote Speaker - Gary Zimmer

Value Added: For You, for the Environment and for the Consumer

Youth Keynote Speaker - Daniel Salatin

Growing Up Joel's Son: The Real Story

Workshops

Saturday Concurrent Session I
 9:00 am - 10:15 am

- A. **Salad Bar Beef** - *Daniel Salatin*
- B. **Hydroponics and Food Production in Michigan** - *Kris and Steve VanHaitsma*
- C. **Sustainable, Organic, Green, Fresh and Natural: Does the Emperor Have Clothes?** - *Melinda Hemmelgarn*
- D. **Legislation, Laws, Regulations and What They May Mean to Your Farm - GAP Part 1** - *Elaine Brown and Colleen Collier Bess*
- E. **Chicken Basics - The Fun and Easy Way to Raise Chickens** - *Jane Knapp*
- F. **Consumer Trends in the Burgeoning Green Market: What Motivates, Attracts, and Captures the Enlightened Consumer** - *Timothy Young*
- G. **Sustainable Hops Production in the Great Lakes Region** - *Rob Serrine*
- H. **Permaculture for Farmers** - *Eric Toensmeier*

Saturday Keynote
 10:30 am - 11:45 am

Saturday Concurrent Session II
 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

- I. **Perennial Vegetables** - *Eric Tonsemeier*
- J. **There Are No Magic Bullets** - *Karen Lubbers*
- K. **Getting the Most From Your Fertilizer Dollar** - *Gary Zimmer*
- L. **Put the Fun Back in Dairy Farming** - *Howard Straub*
- M. **Our Farm Experience with GAP (GAP Part 2)** - *Grower Panel*
- N. **Turning Maintenance from a Liability into a Crucial Asset for the Small Farm** - *Cary Urka*
- O. **Youth Keynote - Growing Up Joel's Son: The Real Story** - *Daniel Salatin*

Saturday Concurrent Session III
 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

- P. **Farm to School: A Great Opportunity in Your Community** - *Renee DeWindt, Kristen Misiak*
- Q. **SARE Funding and On-Farm Research** - *Tom Rorabaugh, Dean Baas, and SARE Panel of Farmers*
- R. **Eating Your Curds and Whey** - *Barbara Jeness*
- S. **Grass Based Sheep** - *Ben Tirrell*
- T. **Wind Power Options for Farmers: Determining Your Wind Resource, Revenue Options, Leases and Incentives** - *Tom Gallery, Steven Smiley and Christopher Stahl*
- U. **Local Food Funding and Entrepreneur Opportunities** - *Susan Loney & Shelley Fuller*
- V. **Saskatoon...The New Berry in Town** - *Steve Fouch*

A full brochure and additional information can be found by following the SFC link on our website at: www.msue.msu.edu/antrim or contact the Antrim County MSUE at 231-533-8818.

Registration deadline is January 23, 2010 (Registration includes Saturday Keynote, sessions, lunch and breaks)

Sorry NO REFUNDS - Late or Walk In Registration will be charged additional \$15 per person and does not guarantee lunch availability.

On-Site Registration - Cash or Check ONLY

Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference
 (Use one form for all registrations from your farm/family)

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

County _____ *Email _____

Additional individual names attending from your farm:

Please do not release my contact information for use by anyone other than conference sponsors.

**confirmation of registration will be sent via e-mail only.*

Please indicate the number from your farm attending each breakout session.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| A. _____ | M. _____ |
| B. _____ | N. _____ |
| C. _____ | O. _____ |
| D. _____ | P. _____ |
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| J. _____ | V. _____ |
| K. _____ | |
| L. _____ | |

Youth Session _____
 Friday Keynote _____
 Lunch Topic _____

1st Person @ \$45.00 = \$45.00
 Additional _____ x \$30 = _____
 Youth* _____ x \$15 = _____
 *\$10 scholarships available for youth call for details
 **Donations taken for Friday evening program.

Please mail registration to:

NMSFC
 c/o Antrim MSUE
 P.O. Box 427
 Bellaire, MI 49615

Method of Payment

- Check (payable to NMSFC)
- Credit (Visa or MasterCard only)

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Saturday Concurrent Session I

9:00 a.m.—10:15 a.m.

- A. **Salad Bar Beef** - *Daniel Salatin* - Learn how Polyface buys stockers from local farmers, runs a nine hundred - head herd, sells over 300 grass fed beef a year and only owns 100 acres of pasture. Also learn some ways to cut, pack and market beef that is tender and as tastes great.
- B. **Hydroponics and Food Production in Michigan** - *Kris and Steve VanHaitsma* - What were you thinking? How it happened. Growing indoors year round: heat and light, what you can grow and can you make money?
- C. **Sustainable, Organic, Green, Fresh and Natural: Does the Emperor Have Clothes?** - *Melinda Hemmelgarn* - A greenwashing expose. Come spruce up your green vocabulary and learn how to make true earth-friendly food choices.
- D. **Legislation, Laws, Regulations and What They May Mean to Your Farm—GAP Part 1** - *Elaine Brown and Colleen Collier Bess* - So you think you know what Good Agriculture Practices are, but do you know what “flavors” are being asked for? An overview of the program, and first hand discussions with a USDA GAP auditor.
- E. **Chicken Basics—The Fun and Easy Way to Raise Chickens** - *Jane Knapp* - She will share what has worked for her - beginning with the egg hatch and progressing through each stage of the chicken’s life.
- F. **Consumer Trends in the Burgeoning Green Market: What Motivates, Attracts, and Captures the Enlightened Consumer** - *Timothy Young* - Whether you are a small scale entrepreneur, value added farmer or a consumer, green living is hot. Consumers are making enlightened demands and the economy is responding. With an emphasis on the food/ farming sector this session will bring the latest statistics on this trend.
- G. **Sustainable Hops Production in the Great Lakes Region** - *Rob Serrine* - Hops are a novel crop with plenty of potential to be grown in Michigan. This talk will provide participants with information needed to grow and market hops in Michigan.
- H. **Permaculture for Farmers** - *Eric Toensmeier* - Permaculture is a design system to help transform your farm into an agroecosystem with functionally interconnected elements. A design process and principles will be shared that draw cutting-edge ecological design, indigenous practices, and old-fashioned farmer common sense.

Saturday Keynote

10:30 am — 11:45 am

Gary Zimmer—Value Added: For You, for the Environment and for the Consumer

Saturday Concurrent Session II

1:30 p.m. — 2:45 p.m.

- I. **Perennial Vegetables** - *Eric Toensmeier* - This workshop will cover the best perennial vegetable species for cold climates and review design ideas and management issues allowing them to come back year after year.
- J. **There Are No Magic Bullets** - *Karen Lubbers* - After Karen’s daughter was diagnosed with brain cancer a journey followed that led them from main stream America to sustainable

agriculture. Karen will share their journey and the provocative lessons learned along the way. Hers is a personal story that profoundly connects food, farming and well-being.

- K. **Getting the Most From Your Fertilizer Dollar** - *Gary Zimmer* - What is the minimum I can do to stay sustainable? If I want to do better, what is a practical approach to evaluating and achieving my goals?
- L. **Put the Fun Back in Dairy Farming** - *Howard Straub* - Howard started rotationally grazing his dairy herd and has never looked back! He will share his numbers, experience and success for a lucrative sustainable grass-based dairy farm. He even takes a winter vacation!
- M. **Our Farm Experience with GAP(GAP Part 2)** - *Grower Panel* - How the program has both positively and negatively affected us. Working with your retailer to make the program work for both of you.
- N. **Turning Maintenance from a Liability into a Crucial Asset for the Small Farm** - *Cary Urka* - Turning maintenance from a liability into a crucial asset requires a well-equipped shop for essential, preemptive, or early intervention maintenance. Cary will cover practical applications and examples from his farm such as proper tooling, welding, fabrication, general mechanicals, AC electric systems and safety.
- O. **Youth Keynote - Growing Up Joel’s Son: The Real Story** - *Daniel Salatin* - Daniel will cover how you can as an adult show and share your interest in farming to your kids, where to start with your farming ideas as a young person, some tools that will help the generations work as a team and share some light hearted moments growing up on Polyface farm.

Saturday Concurrent Session III

3:15 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

- P. **Farm to School: A Great Opportunity in Your Community** - *Renee DeWindt, Kristen Misiak* - Hear from two food service directors about their experiences with Farm to School, and how you as a farmer can partner with your local school. You’ll hear a broad perspective of what is possible in various schools, how farmers can help develop the partnership, and what challenges you and your school may have to overcome.
- Q. **SARE Funding and On-Farm Research** - *Tom Rorabaugh, Dean Baas, and SARE Panel of Farmers* - Opportunities for sustainable projects grants—SARE.
- R. **Eating Your Curds and Whey** - *Barbara Jeness* - Cheesemaking in the kitchen. Taking the mystery out of making cheese, how to start, what you need, and where to get it.
- S. **Grass Based Sheep** - *Ben Tirrell* - Ben will share his experiences with grazing sheep and how the Tirrell’s have used this practice to help their 150 year old family farm continue to be successful. From raising sheep to finding innovative ways of marketing them, the Tirrell’s have developed a sustainable way of farming for themselves and their customers.
- T. **Wind Power Options for Farmers: Determining Your Wind Resource, Revenue Options, Leases and Incentives** - *Tom Gallery, Steven Smiley and Christopher Stahl* - This discussion will provide information on determining if your site is suitable for wind energy, site and energy requirements and turbine options. Moreover, knowledgeable

presenters will walk you through the lease process and provide you with up to date information on financial and/or tax incentives and policies.

- U. **Local Food Funding and Entrepreneur Opportunities** - *Susan Loney & Shelley Fuller* - Emerging business opportunities in support of the Food & Farming Network in Northern Michigan, available support services and funding options.
- V. **Saskatoon...The New Berry in Town** - *Steve Fouch* - This new healthy berry is gaining popularity with growers across the Northern Lower Peninsula. Similar to blueberries, but without the acidic soil requirement, they are cold hardy and have diverse marketing opportunities.

Youth Session

youth ages 9 and over

Sorry adults but youth take priority! Adults welcome only if space allows.

- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:20 Panel presentations by youth entrepreneurs
- 11:45 Break for lunch and family time
- 1:30 Daniel Salatin “Growing up Joel’s Son: The Real Story.” (see session O for description)
- 3:00 Educational Demonstrations: Worm composting, mushroom inoculation; harnessing horses (no horses present); tapping trees and mozzarella cheese making.

An activity room will be open from 1:15 – 4:30 for children ages 5 – 8 only! Available spots on a first come, first serve basis (max of 30).

There will be an unsupervised family room with organized activities from 1:15 – 4:30 for children ages 0–4 only! Again we will take on a first come first serve basis (max of 20).