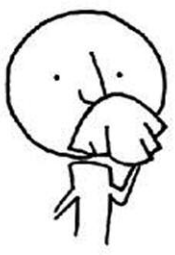
BESTEMAN
MAPLE SYRUP
Maple Syrup • Maple Candy
Maple Cream • Granulated Sugar
Glazed Nuts • Cotton Candy
15689 S. Tilson Road, Rudyard MI 49780
906-478-5412 Closed Sundays

Enjoy the comfort of a Northern Michigan woolen blanket from Lake Superior Woolen Company
www.lswoolen.com
906-478-7451 7538 W-48, Rudyard MI 49780

GREAT LAKES OPTOMETRY
BRIAN MATTHEWS, O.D. DALE JOHNSON, O.D.
PURCHASE ONE PAIR AND RECIEVE
50% OFF!
ON A 2ND PAIR OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY
906-635-9600
OPEN MON-THU 9-6 FRI 9-4
128 W. Spruce St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
greatlakesoptometry.com

2013-2014
Flu Season Clinics
$15 per person
Free for Tribal members,
tribal employees, Medicare-B
and Medicaid insured.



Wed., Oct. 23: 2pm - 6 pm
Bay Mills Health Center
Wed., Oct. 30: 2pm - 6 pm
Bay Mills Health Center
Wed., Nov. 6: 2pm - 6 pm
Bay Mills Health Center
Wear short sleeves. All people 6 months of age and older should get the flu vaccine. Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk of severe influenza and their close contacts, including health care personnel and close contacts of children young than 6 months.

Wallis farm raises sheep, sells blankets through side business

By Sharlene Myers
Bay Mills News

RUDYARD — As temperatures drop, thoughts turn to keeping warm on cold winter nights and Eric Wallis of Lake Superior Woolen Company has a suggestion: 100 percent wool blankets made from local sheep, nurtured in an environmentally certified way.

Wallis Farms, located on West M-48, is dedicated wholly to the production of market lambs, with the sale of wool as a burgeoning business on the side. Partnering with Selden Collins to form Lake Superior Woolen Company, Wallis sends their wool to a mill in Prince Edward Island, Canada where blankets are woven using only that wool. He tried to find a mill in the U.S. that would do the same, but could not find one willing to work with the small amount of wool they produced.

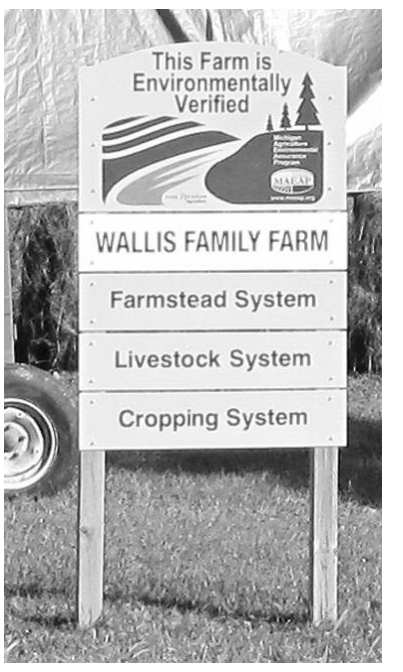
Wallis keeps the inventory at his house and manages the orders and shipping from there. He said most of their business is through online orders but Collins has succeeded in placing their blankets in retail stores downstate as well as in Cedarville, Hessel, Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace. They are also available at the gift shop at Bay Mills Resort & Casinos.

Wallis works out of his home, which is just a few years shy of earning the distinction of being a "Centennial Farm," a designation that recognizes farms that have remained in the same family for 100 years or more. His grandfather, Percy Wallis, homesteaded the farm in about 1918; his father, Donald Wallis, took over from there while also working as an administrator at Rudyard Schools; and now Eric Wallis, the eldest of four boys, runs the place with help from his wife, Penny. The couple have three daughters and hope one of them will keep the farm in the family.

As a young man, Wallis vowed he would never work on the farm. He attended Lake Superior University and worked at several jobs in the Pickford area. In 1979, he and Penny married and shortly afterward, they moved onto property near his dad's farm where they kept 30 ewes but continued their jobs as well.

His brother, Dave Wallis, was the one intended to run the family business and pursued agricultural studies at Michigan State University. However, he felt called to become a pastor, while Eric felt called back to the farm. In 1986, he quit his job and started farming full time.

WALLIS FARM — Above, one of the farm's Geat Pyenees dogs guards flocks of sheep from any predators. The farm has been environmentally verified and is close to being designated a centennial farm. From these sheep, blankets are made and then sold by Lake Superior Woolen Company.



While Dave preferred to raise beef cattle, Eric preferred sheep and soon modified the farm into a sheep production only. "I changed everything to be sheep-friendly by 1989."

His decision was based on advice from a farmer in Pickford, who told him he could support a family on 300 ewes. He soon realized he could not do it and increased his flock to the current 600 ewes. "I do most of this on my own and 600 is plenty for this facility."

He prefers Polypat sheep, a white, medium-sized animal especially bred for the commercial sheep industry about 50 years ago as a dual purpose (meat and wool) breed. "They are smaller so they eat less and they are a healthy breed with better maternal instincts and are more prolific," said Wallis. "Plus they have better wool than other breeds."

Fifteen rams are kept for breeding purposes, which is carefully controlled. Wallis wants his lambs born at a specific time so that they can be weaned in August and in the pasture eating high quality grass before being taken to slaughter at about 5 months old. This year, his farm produced about 750 lambs which will be trucked downstate as well as to Maryland and Iowa.

The ewes who are productive remain and are fed baleage grown on his farm throughout the winter. He individually checks each ewe annually and those with any health problems are culled and sold.

Wallis said he had a lot of problems with wolf depredation 12 to 14 years ago but with the help of his Great Pyrenees dogs and other practices such as grazing route rotations, fencing and netting, that has stopped in recent years.

He rotates his grazing and crops, and uses the manure on his fields — any fertilizer he does purchase is organic. His methods have earned the farm a designation as environmentally verified through the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.

For more information on the 100 percent virgin wool blankets available at Lake Superior Woolen Company, call 906-478-7451 or email upshepherd@hotmail.com or visit www.lswoolen.com.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER
12124 WEST LAKESHORE DRIVE
BRIMLEY, MI 49715
MEDICAL & DENTAL OPERATING HOURS
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F, except
Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
LAB & X-RAY SERVICES
PHARMACY OPEN 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F
Call for
SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS
Phone lines open at 8 a.m.
AFTER HOURS ACCESS -- 906-203-4074
•Weeknights, weekends & holidays
• Speak with BMHC nursing staff
•Service available to BMHC patients
Most Insurances AreAccepted
Sliding Fee Available If Qualified
To make an appointment, or to cancel, please call:
Medical Clinic: 906-248-5527
Dental Clinic: 906-248-5578
Pharmacy: 906-248-2031
Behavioral Health: 906-248-3204

Sierra Club announces fall programs

SAULT STE. MARIE — Fall programs of the Sierra Club Three Lakes Group are as follows: Forum on Fracking on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 1 p.m. and Threat of Pipeline in Mackinac Straits on Thursday, Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m., both at Bayliss Library in Sault Ste. Marie. Light refreshments will be provided. On Saturday, Nov. 2 the group will have a music night at the Soo Theatre Arts Resource Studio (STARS). Participants are encouraged to bring musical instruments, sing along or just listen. Also, bring a dish to pass; some beverages provided.

Three Lakes Group meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm for the months in which they don't have programs scheduled: January, May, June, July, August and December. The sale of Sierra Club calendars provides funds for the Three Lakes Group. Calendars can be ordered from Annemarie Askwith at: askwitha@lighthouse.net — $12 for wall; $13 for engagement.

Chippewa County Credit Union
402 West Spruce
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
906.632.3134 • 906.632.3137
4868 West M-80
Kincheloe, MI 49788
906.495.1161 • 906.495.1163
Where all families make one union