

Over the Back Fence

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter

Spring has Sprung!

It is hard to believe that it is already March! It feels like the new year just started. These first few months have flown by, but agriculture within Extension has had great success to start 2024 off right. From hosting an Ag Outlook Meeting, to a new Rooted in Ag Series, and PARP class, the amount of support and participation from the community is impeccable and shows how important agriculture and natural resources are in this county and the world. I know with the warmer weather and sunshine right around the corner, some of you are ready to be planting your gardens and fields. If you have any questions with getting your growing year started or anything else, please feel free to reach out. I look forward to the continuing year, all that we can accomplish and the impact we can have on the community.

Aniel Comm





In This Issue:

Featured Event.....3
• Pesticide Applicator Program in Harrison County

Harrison County ANR Events.....4
• Annual Extension Board Meeting & Open House
• Grow It, Cook It: Spring 2024 Series
• Livestock and Poultry 101 Workshop

Other ANR Events.....5
• Southwest Indiana Homesteading Conference
• Southern Indiana Grazing Conference
• Master Gardeners Spring Gardening Workshop
• Master Gardener Pop-up Plant Sale
• Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District
 ◦ County Conservation Program Sign-ups
• Floyd County Pollinator Day
• Broadband

ANR Recap.....8
• Master Gardener Soils Presentation
• Cattlemen’s Annual Meeting
• Ag Outlook Breakfast
• Rooted In Ag: Pizza Edition
• PARP Event at Premier Ag
• *Help the Hellbender Team* Honored as Friends of Conservation

ANR Resources.....10
• Soil Sample Testing
• Monthly Extension Challenge Kits
• Harrison-Crawford Counties, Indiana Plat Books
• Farm Record Book
• Harrison County Master Gardeners 2024 Meetings
• Harrison County Cattlemen's Association
 ◦ Bull Soundness Exams

Ag Education and Information.....12
• *Purdue Researchers Fighting Tar Spot*
• *Indiana Sheep and Goat Inventory on Jan. 1, 2024*
• *US Cattle Inventory Drops to Lowest Level Since 1951*
• *Indiana Ag Products Valued at Over \$18 Billion Says New USDA Census*
• *Forage Timely Tips*

Concluding Details.....15
• Position Open: 4-H Youth Development Educator
• Learn-N-Burn Woodland RX Fire Workshop

Ag Spotlight

This is a new section which features an interview of community members involved in Agriculture or Natural Resources fields!

Name: Chris Jones

Hometown: Palmyra, IN

Education: Bachelor of Science in Farm Management from Purdue University

Occupation: Farmer



What interested you Agriculture?

Being raised on a farm sparked my interest in agriculture. 4-H and FFA fostered a desire to learn about different areas of agriculture outside of our family farm.

What advice do you have for someone wanting a career in Agriculture?

If someone were to have a desire to enter agriculture, I would strongly recommend that they find a few mentors in the agriculture community to shadow. There is no better representation of agriculture than to enter it with a mentor. It is real life experience of the daily grind of agriculture. This will help the individual find an area that best suits their interest before they invest in technical training or college.

Additional information:

There are a tremendous amount of jobs that are agriculture related that are outside of farming including: Ag wholesale/retail, commodity marketing, agronomy/soil science, banking/lending, insurance and ag education. It takes a multitude of different career paths to make agriculture work efficiently.



FEATURED EVENT

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR PROGRAM: Harrison County

Wednesday, March 20, 2024



Extension - Agriculture
and Natural Resources



- **PARP Credits**
- **CCH Categories:** 1, 11, 14, and RT

Speakers:

- Larry Huffmeyer - Premier Ag, Soil Agronomist
 - Topic: Soil Fertility
- Bill Johnson - Purdue University, Weed Science
 - Topic: Weed Management Plans for 2024
- Richard Beckort - Purdue ANR Educator, Jackson Co
 - Regulatory topic

Details

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 

10:00am-Noon 

Harrison County Extension Office 
247 Atwood St. Corydon, IN 47112

RSVP Required by 3/18

812-738-4236 

Program is free thanks to sponsorship by the IN
Corn Marketing Council and IN Soybean Alliance

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity Equal Access Institution

HARRISON COUNTY EXTENSION ANR EVENTS

Annual Extension Board Meeting & Open House

You're invited to the Annual Extension Board Meeting & Open House!

Purdue Extension Harrison County invites you to our Annual Extension Board Meeting & Open House on Tuesday, **March 5th** at 6:00pm at the Extension Office. A complimentary grazing table and beverages will be provided. Thank you to Blackman Farms for sponsoring refreshments at this event.

Join us for:

- Educational Breakout Sessions
- 2023 Extension Educator Reports
- Introduction & Election of Extension Board Members
- Presentation of Awards



YOU'RE INVITED!

Grow It, Cook It: Spring 2024 Series

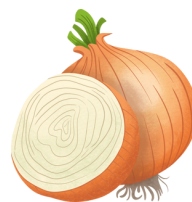
Join ANR Educator, Ariel Camm, and HHS/CD Educator, Tara Beckman, for their "Grow It, Cook It" Spring Workshop Series. This series is all about empowering you, the participant, to go from garden to table with featured ingredients. Sample recipes, plant your own seeds to take home, and acquire educational information to help you be successful in the days and weeks that follow!

Featured Item: Onions

- **March 12th**, 5:30-6:30pm
- Registration Deadline: March 5th

Featured Item: Brussel Sprouts

- **April 9th**, 5:30-6:30pm
- Registration Deadline: March 22nd



Don't wait to register- call the office at 812-738-4236 to begin the process. The \$5 per session fee can be paid at the Extension Office, 247 Atwood Street, Corydon, IN by the registration deadline listed above.

Livestock and Poultry 101 Workshop

Interested in raising livestock or poultry on any scale? Adults (18+) are invited to join ANR Educator, Ariel Camm, at the Harrison County Extension Office for Livestock & Poultry 101 — a beginner's course to learn what you'll need for safe, strategic and successful production.

The first two sessions cover the following topics:

- how to start a livestock farm by discussing types of animals
- feed components
- pastures and grazing
- first aid with animals
- animal ID
- breeds
- animal well-being
- business license



Then, choose from our in-depth sessions to learn more about your species of interest (sheep & goats or beef cattle).

First 2 General Sessions-\$30 includes both, meal included

Additional Sessions (Must attend first 2 sessions to attend one of these)-\$10 Each-No Meal included

SESSION SCHEDULE: All sessions held at the Harrison County Extension Office

- General #1: May 7th (5:00-8:00pm)
- General #2: May 14th (5:00-8:00pm)
- Beef Cattle: May 21st (5:00-8:00pm)
- Sheep & Goats: May 28th (5:00-8:00pm)

Please RSVP to the Extension Office at 812-738-4236 by April 30th.

OTHER ANR EVENTS

Southwest Indiana Homesteading Conference

Purdue Extension will offer the Southwest Indiana Homesteading Conference to help current, beginning, and prospective small farmers in the Tri-State area improve and diversify their small farm and homestead operations.

Friday's sessions focus on food preservation, with topics such as boiling water bath, jams and jellies, pressure canning, and fermenting and pickling with hands-on practice in the kitchen.

Saturday sessions involve an array of small farm presentations, with topics including vegetable production, fruit production, soil fertility, composting, beekeeping, backyard poultry, urban agriculture, cover crops, organic systems, food storage panel discussion, small business resources, rain harvesting and storage, tools for the farm, and mushroom cultivation.

Conference participants will receive information on production methods and processes from a variety of experts to plan for new ventures, improve current production and profitability, and diversify current operations. The event will also feature vendor booths with products and services geared towards small farm and homestead operations.

The conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 8 & 9, at the Friedman Park Event Center, 2700 Park Blvd., Newburgh, IN. Friday registration begins at 11:00 AM, with sessions from 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Saturday registration begins at 7:00 AM CDT, with presentations running from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM CDT. On Saturday, childcare will be available for a fee.

Fees for this event are \$35.00 per person (Friday), \$40 per person (Saturday), and \$20.00 for childcare (Saturday only), with registration available on-line at <https://bit.ly/SWIHC2024>. Registrations are due by March 1.

For more information contact the Purdue Extension - Gibson County office at (812) 385-3491 or visit your local county Extension Office. Information is also available at <https://bit.ly/426IcYD>.



Southern Indiana Grazing Conference

The 2024 Southern Indiana Grazing Conference is approaching!

- **Wednesday, March 27**

This conference is an opportunity for you to reach a diverse group of livestock producers and grazers throughout several states. This is a joint education effort between government, academia, industry, and grazers to provide livestock producers with the most current grazing information and resources. There will be three great speakers this year, Dr. Will Winter, Wesley Tucker, and Devon Churchill.

Visit the Southern Indiana Grazing Conference Facebook Page for more info:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernIndianaGrazingConference>

8:30 am-3:45 pm EST

Shiloh Community Center

27

March

8872 E 1000 N,
Odon, IN 47562

Doors open @ 7:30am EST



Master Gardeners Spring Gardening Workshop

Join the Harrison County Master Gardeners for their annual Spring Gardening Workshop on April 20th from 8:30am - Noon at the Extension Office.

Highlights include:

- Homemade Breakfast
- Seed Starting and Propagation
- Native Seeds and Plants
- Soil Health
- Question & Answer Session



Pre-registration, including form and \$5 fee required at Extension Office by April 12th or when limited seating capacity reached. This event is open to the public, Adults Only 18+

Follow Harrison County Master Gardeners, Inc. on Facebook for more details to be released. Be sure to share this information with your friends!

Call 812-738-4236 for registration questions.

Master Gardener Pop-Up Plant Sale

The Harrison County Master Gardeners are having a Pop-up Plant Sale at the Harrison County Extension Office on May 6, 2024. Online pre-orders will be available starting April 24, 2024. Watch Harrison County Master Gardeners, Inc. on Facebook for details... last year's online presale sold out quickly!

There will be a variety of herbs, vegetables, flowers, and houseplants available. All plants have been grown by the Master Gardeners in their Greenhouse at the Extension office.

This event is open to the public. More information to come!



Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District

County Conservation Program Sign-ups

When: Begin on Monday, March 4th @ 8:00 a.m.

Where: Harrison Co. Government Center, 1st floor Conference Room



Floyd County Pollinator Day

Mark your calendars for Pollinator Day 2024!

Saturday - April 27th from 10AM-3PM!

Purdue Technology Park

3000 Technology Ave.

New Albany, Indiana 47150

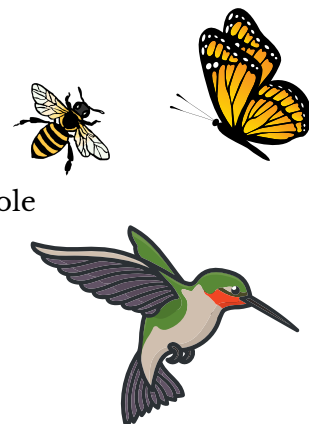
Pollinator Day is a FREE family-friendly event! It includes hands-on activities for the whole family! Games, crafts, local vendors, selfie-station, food trucks, and booths full of information for all!

Educational classes will be held on:

-How to Catch a Swarm of Bees by [Spring Valley Beekeepers](#)

-Pollinators & The Big Picture by Kevin Wiener from [All Bugs Go to Kevin](#)

Pollinator Day is possible due to the generous support of Duke Energy Foundation and other community supporters!



Purdue's Broadband Team is working to enhance internet connectivity for all Indiana residents #BoilerBroadband

- Did You Know the state will be investing a significant amount of federal dollars to build broadband? Help them know where to invest by taking speed tests. How fast is your internet connection? Take a speed test and provide additional information on your internet connection. If you don't have internet available, you can report the lack of service too. Visit: <https://connectingindiana.com/>
- Does your home not have internet access? Or is your service slow and unreliable? Register for the Indiana Connectivity Program to see if providers bid on your address to get better service. Learn more: <https://www.in.gov/ocra/broadband/icp/>
- Did You Know there is a federal program that can help pay for your home internet bill? Wish you had home internet, but your budget is a bit tight? Learn more about the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program at: <https://www.fcc.gov/acp>

DO I HAVE BROADBAND?

While the definition is a bit vague, it really means that if internet service available at your address (home business, organization, etc.) is slower than 25 megabits per second or Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload (Mbps refers to the amount of data that can be handled by your internet connection), 25/3 for short, then you are considered unserved. If you do have 25/3 Mbps service but not 100/20 Mbps available, then you are considered underserved. If either of these is the case, your address could be eligible for funds to provide service of at least 100/20 Mbps. In case you were wondering, "gig" service refers to speeds of 1,000 Mbps.

The FCC unveiled a new map and needs your help to make sure your address and internet service offered are accurate. Read more on how to review your address by reading this blog post: [3 Steps to Bring Better Broadband to Indiana – Purdue Center for Regional Development](#)

WHAT IS BROADBAND?



SPEED TESTS

Another wrinkle to consider is that beyond internet service being available, is the issue of reliability and quality of service. One way to measure this is through speed tests. A speed test calculates your download and upload speeds (again, measured in Mbps). If your internet connection consistently delivers speed tests below what the provider says it is providing, there may be some quality issues. This in turn may make your address eligible for funds to build more high-quality internet service. You can see what service you subscribed to by checking out your internet bill.

To conduct a speed test on your existing service or to report an address with no service, please visit: pcrd.purdue.edu/speedtest

And remember, speed tests are free so please complete as many as possible, as frequently as possible! The more data there is on your internet service, the better!



ADOPTION AND AFFORDABILITY

In addition to having access to adequate internet, another issue is adoption. Many times, internet is available, but folks do not subscribe because they may not be able to afford it. Fortunately, there is a program in place called the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) that provides \$30 per month to eligible homes (\$75 in qualifying tribal lands and high-cost areas). Please visit www.fcc.gov/acp for more information and for instructions on how to enroll.



ANR RECAP



Master Gardener Soils Presentation

Harrison County ANR Educator, Ariel Camm facilitated a lesson on Soils and Plant Nutrition on January 25, 2024, at the Spring 2024 Purdue Extension Master Gardeners Basic Training hosted at Floyd County. Floyd and Clark County Extension are collaborating this spring to offer Purdue Extension Master Gardener initial certification to 30 interns. The internship consists of a minimum of 40 hours of education and training in 13 core subject areas and also requires a volunteer commitment. The Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program trains individuals interested in horticulture as volunteers to assist Purdue Extension with home gardening education in their own communities. Ariel Camm answered and moderated questions pertaining to soil components, textures, biology, and structure as well as drainage and water movement within soil. Ariel's instruction on plant nutrition, uptake of macro and micro nutrients, soil pH and fertility was also part of the intensive education that is required for Extension Master Gardener certification.



Cattlemen's Annual Meeting

On Saturday, January 13th, at the Harrison County Fairgrounds, around 130 people attended the Harrison County Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting.

Guest Speaker, Warren Beeler, spoke about beef cattle genetics, the importance of the agriculture industry, and his past livestock and judging experiences.

This annual event is a great way to connect with beef cattle producers.

Thank you to everyone who attended!



Ag Outlook Breakfast

The outlook for the future of Agriculture in Harrison County is optimistic! On Friday, January 26, 2024, Purdue Extension Harrison County hosted an Ag Outlook Breakfast and Meeting, sponsored by Premier Ag. Thank you to Dr. Michael Langemeier, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University for his very informative and in-depth look at Agricultural statistics in areas ranging from crop production to land values. Dr. Langemeier's presentation focused on 2024 Market Outlooks - resources to evaluate market trends for grain and livestock and the factors which impact those trends. Approximately 30 attendees had the opportunity for education, socializing, and a delicious breakfast, homemade by Harrison County Extension Office Manager, Mary Eve. Thank you to our presenter, sponsors, and to all those who came out to support Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension programming in Harrison County.



ANR RECAP



Rooted In Ag: Pizza Edition

On February 6th, in celebration of National Pizza Day, ANR Educator, Ariel Camm, led an interactive and hands-on program for 9 participants about the ingredients in our pizzas and how they are rooted in agriculture. Each participant was able to create their own “Take & Bake” pizzas. Ariel discussed agriculture as it relates to each ingredient. Planning and organization was evident as toppings were separated into individual cups perfect for trading and individualizing. Ariel also kept it interesting with fun facts about pizza and agriculture!

Did you know that Harrison County is the #2 beef producer in the state of Indiana?

The pace of the class allowed for socializing, interacting, questions & answers. Did you know that pepperoni is the number one pizza topping in the US?

Discussions led to interesting topics and ideas for possible future programs...who knew everyone was so interested in mushrooms! Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed learning about how agriculture is all around us and in the foods we eat!



PARP Event at Premier Ag

Harrison County ANR educator, Ariel Camm, and Crawford County ANR Educator, Molley Hasenour, led a PARP session at Premier Ag on February 19th.

All 55 participants learned about various topics such as soil pH, fungicides, soil fertility, worker protection, and keeping track of records.

A delicious breakfast and lunch was provided. Thank you to the Corn and Soybean Alliance for sponsoring this PARP session.

Thank you to Premier Ag for hosting!



Help the Hellbender Team Honored as Friends of Conservation

Purdue’s Help the Hellbender lab was honored with the Friends of Conservation Award by the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts this week. Learn about their outreach, partnerships and breakthroughs here:

<https://ag.purdue.edu/news/department/fnr/2024/01/help-the-hellbender-team-honored-as-friends-of-conservation.html>

Pictured:

1 - Seated (Left to Right): Virginia Morris (Harrison County SWCD Office Manager), Eliza Hudson (Regional Conservation Partnership Program Coordinator for the Farmers Helping Hellbenders Program), Cora Brown (Washington County SWCD Technician). Standing (Left to Right): Aaron Walker (Washington County SWCD Supervisor), Nevada Wagers (Washington County SWCD Office Manager), Rhonda Johnson (Washington County SWCD Supervisor), Ruth Hackman (Washington County NRCS District Conservationist)

ANR RESOURCES

Soil Sample Testing

SUBMITTING TO A&L LABS:

Your local Extension Office can submit soil samples for you to A&L Labs. Typical turn around for results is 10-14 days.

BASIC ANALYSIS:

Measures the organic matter, available phosphorus, exchangeable Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium, Soil pH, Cation Exchange Capacity, Percent Base Saturation of Cation Elements.

TESTING YOUR SOIL:

In a soil test elements are chemically removed from the soil and measured for their available content to the plant. The quantity of the nutrients in the sample determines the amount of fertilizer that is recommended. Soil tests also measure soil PH, humic matter and exchangeable acidity. Soil tests can be taken at any time, the important thing to remember is to take the sample at the same time every year! It is however, recommended to take it in the fall when application of fertilizers is possible.

HOW TO TAKE THE SAMPLE:

First, using a sample probe, (available for loan at our office) spade, trowel or long knife, dig 6-8 inches deep for gardens, shrubs or trees and 3-4 inches for turf. Sample different areas of the turf, garden or landscape separately. Choose 8-10 locations to extract soil from (more if its a large area). Discard any surface residue, thatch or stone.

Second, combine the samples in a bucket and mix well. Transfer 1-2 cups of the mixed sample to our provided bag or a plastic bag. Label the bag with location, the address and your contact information.

Finally, drop your soil sample at the extension office with your payment (we can only accept cash or check), we'll take care of the rest. We can email your results, call you for pickup or mail them. Let us know your preferred method.



2024 Soil Sample Pricing

***pricing subject to change**

1 Sample - \$19.00	6 Samples - \$84.00
2 Samples - \$29.00	7 Samples - \$90.00
3 Samples - \$45.00	8 Samples - \$100.00
4 Samples - \$54.50	9 Samples - \$110.00
5 Samples - \$64.00	10 Samples - \$120.00

HELPFUL HINTS REGARDING SOIL TESTING:

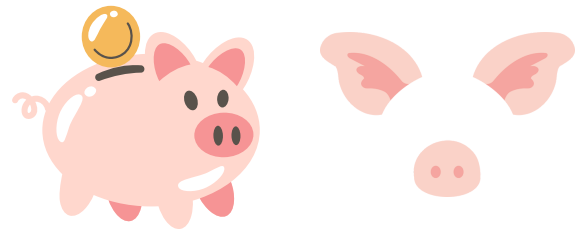
- Most labs do not include a nitrogen test because soils do not retain nitrogen, so it must be replenished every year. Some gardening books advise a general lime application, yet most Indiana gardens have a soil pH that is already near neutral, if not slightly alkaline. So, applying lime will not help (and may hurt) nutrient availability in these soils.
- You should test your soil every three to five years. However, if you have specific plants with particular fertility and soil pH requirements, test more often.
- Be sure to collect your soil sample and test it well before you plant, so you have time to treat the soil. You can sample soil any time the soil is suitable for spading or rototilling, but late summer or early fall give enough lead time to plan ahead. However, if a situation develops that suggests soil fertility may be the problem, then you should collect samples immediately. Taking soil samples from the "normal" and "abnormal" plant growth areas is helpful for comparison.

Monthly Extension Challenge Kits

The first day of March is National Pork Day. Our March Challenge kit has information about American pig breeds and a fun craft project, a Piggy Bank. Send us pictures of your creation, we may share it on social media! If you are in 4-H, this can be entered as a scrap craft project. Be creative and personalize your pig.

WHAT: What is an Extension Challenge Kit? Our monthly challenge kits provide instructions and most materials to do a DIY educational project or two on your own. The kits are geared towards ALL Harrison County community members, and focus on Extension education areas such as Agriculture and Natural Resources or Health and Human Sciences. Our kits are FREE, but come in limited quantities so be sure to check in with us at the first of each month.

WHEN: We release our challenge kits at the beginning of each month in the Extension Office. You can come in Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm to pick yours up in person. Check our Facebook for information at the first of each month regarding challenge details, and feel free to call the office to see if kits are still available (limited quantities).



Harrison-Crawford Counties, Indiana Plat Books

This Harrison-Crawford Counties Indiana Plat Book contains:

- **Landowner maps** that concentrate on rural landownership with detailed acreage information, parcel boundaries and section lines. Each map includes highways, roads, waterways, railways and municipal boundaries.
- **Specialty maps** include Harrison County Road Maps, Watersheds Map & Soils Map - Crawford County Road Maps, Watersheds Map & Soils Map.
- **3D LiDAR Aerial Maps** facing the landowner map pages. The aerial maps are enhanced using elevation data from the USGS National Elevation Dataset (NED), creating a 3D effect showing the actual topography of the land.
- **Road Index** showing all roads in Harrison-Crawford Counties.
- **Landowner Index** that allows for easy identification of rural landowners in Harrison-Crawford Counties Indiana.
- Full color printing, spiral-bound, 8 1/2 x 11, 132 pages.

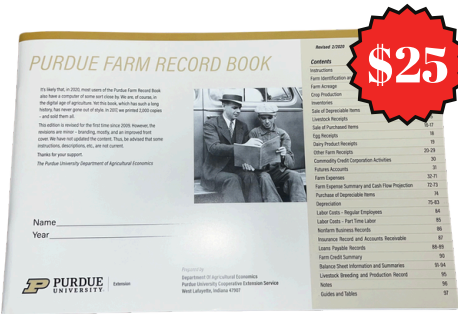
For purchase information, contact

Purdue Extension Harrison County: 812-738-4236



Farm Record Book

The Farm Record Book is a 100-page book enabling farmers to keep accurate and effective farm records.



- Farm Identification and Income Tax Notes
- Farm Acreage
- Crop Production
- Inventories
- Sale of Depreciable Items
- Livestock Receipts
- Sale of Purchased Items
- Egg Receipts
- Dairy Product Receipts
- Other Farm Receipts
- Commodity Credit Corporation Activities
- Future Accounts
- Farm Expenses
- Farm Expense Summary and Cash Flow Projection
- Purchase of Depreciable Items
- Depreciation
- Labor Costs- Regular Employees
- Labor Costs- Part Time Labor
- Nonfarm Business Records
- Insurance Record and Accounts Receivable
- Loans Payable Records
- Farm Credit Summary
- Balance Sheet Information and Summaries
- Livestock Breeding and Production Record
- Notes
- Guides and Tables

Pick Up at the Extension Office:

247 Atwood St. Corydon, IN 47112

Call with any questions:

812-738-4236

Harrison County Master Gardeners 2024 Meetings



We meet on the Third Thursday of every month at 6:30pm at the Harrison County Extension Office.

Visit the Purdue Extension Harrison County ANR page for more information about Master Gardeners or contact Ken Tingler at ktingler@yahoo.com

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/harrison/ANRHomePage.html>

- March 21st
- April 18th
- May 16th
- June 20th
- July 18th
- August 15th
- September 19th
- October 17th
- November 21st
- December 19th

Harrison County Cattlemen's Association

We meet on the First Wednesday of every other month at 7:30pm at the Extension Office (even numbered months).

Visit the Purdue Extension Harrison County ANR page for more information about the Harrison County Cattlemen's Association.

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/harrison/ANRHomePage.html>

- April 3rd
- June 5th
- August 7th
- October 2nd
- December 4th



Bull Soundness Exams

The Harrison Co. Cattlemen's Association is offering to cover the cost of 1 bull soundness exam for the year 2024.

- CURRENT members ONLY (2024 dues are paid)
- **1**BSE per current member for the 2024 year
- Utilize ANY vet, anytime during 2024
- Vaccines, farm visit, any additional costs NOT included
- Call or text 502-554-5124 for information on reimbursement. Must provide proof of payment/services.



AG EDUCATION & INFORMATION

PURDUE RESEARCHERS FIGHTING TAR SPOT

PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 1, 2024 | MORNING AG CLIPS

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — The strange black circles began appearing on corn leaves in Indiana’s Cass and Carroll counties in 2015. It looked almost as if someone had dipped a brush in black paint and flicked it on the corn. Farmers had never seen anything quite like it, but it gave them a bad feeling.

Researchers at the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab (PPDL) soon identified the problem: tar spot. The disease, caused by a fungus, was well known in Mexico, Central and South America, where it had damaged corn for more than a century. But until 2015, it had never been seen in the United States. Now it was here – and it was spreading.

“It can be a pretty devastating disease in terms of corn,” said Daniel Quinn, Purdue’s Extension Corn Specialist and assistant professor in agronomy. “It can cause significant yield reductions if you don’t manage it properly.”

Since tar spot’s arrival in this country, Purdue researchers have been on the front lines of the fight against the disease. They’re developing new ways of tracking and treating the disease, an effort which reaches across disciplines and national borders.

Know your enemy

Christian Cruz, assistant professor in the Purdue Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, uses field sensors to enhance the precision and efficiency of tar spot quantification. (Tom Campbell, Purdue Agricultural Communications)

“If you don’t know your enemy, it’s hard to combat the threat,” said Christian Cruz, an assistant professor in the Botany and Plant Pathology Department.

One of the biggest unknowns about corn tar spot is how it got here — understanding how plant pathogens spread involves thinking multidimensionally across disciplines. You need to understand botany, of course, but also things like global trade, international relations, weather patterns and more.

To illustrate, Cruz uses the example of wheat blast, another plant disease caused by a fungus. Since its discovery in Brazil in 1985, wheat blast had only been found in the Americas (though not in the U.S.). But in 2016, it suddenly appeared in Bangladesh and in 2018 in Zambia. Why?

The answer appears to reach back to 2014 when Russia invaded and annexed Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula. Suddenly, the region’s massive wheat crop was difficult or impossible to export.

“Countries were desperately looking for sources of wheat,” Cruz says “Brazil was not a major exporter of wheat, but that year it became one. Before shipping, grain might have gotten infected at the farm, and blast infections are sometimes hard to spot. Some of that might have ended up in Bangladesh.”

Researchers are still unsure how tar spot got to the Midwest – it’s now spread from Indiana and Illinois to more than a dozen states across the Midwest, Eastern seaboard and South. But now that it’s here, they need to be able to spot outbreaks quickly. To this end, Cruz and his collaborators, both in the U.S. and abroad, are using a variety of data-collection technologies.



Dan Quinn, Purdue Extension’s corn specialist, works with farmers across the state to discuss tar spot and its management. (Tom Campbell, Purdue Agricultural Communications)

Read full article here: <https://www.morningagclips.com/purdue-researchers-fighting-tar-spot/>

INDIANA SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY ON JAN. 1, 2024

PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 6, 2024 | MORNING AG CLIPS

EAST LANSING, Mich. — All sheep and lamb inventory in Indiana on January 1, 2024, was 80,000 head, up 2,000 from 2023, according to Nathaniel Warenski, State Statistician of the USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office. The breeding sheep inventory, at 70,000 head, was up 2,000 from last year. Market sheep and lambs totaled 10,000 head, unchanged from last year. The 2023 Indiana lamb crop was 59,000 head, up 1,000 from the previous year.

All sheep and lambs inventory in the United States on January 1, 2024, totaled 5.03 million head, down 2 percent from 2023. Breeding sheep inventory at 3.67 million head on January 1, 2024, decreased 2 percent from 3.74 million head on January 1, 2023. Ewes one-year-old and older, at 2.87 million head, were 2 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2024, totaled 1.36 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2023.

The number of sheep and lambs shorn in Indiana, at 44,000 head, was unchanged from the previous year. Indiana shorn wool production in 2023 was 250,000 pounds, unchanged from 2022. The average price paid for wool in Indiana was \$0.70 per pound, an increase of \$0.10 from the previous year. The total value of wool was \$175,000, up \$25,000 from the 2022 value.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2023 was 22.7 million pounds, down 2 percent from 2022. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.22 million head, down 2 percent from 2022. The average price paid for wool sold in 2023 was \$1.56 per pound for a total value of 35.3 million dollars, down 1 percent from 35.5 million dollars in 2022.

As of January 1, 2024, there were 14,000 milk goats in Indiana, up 1,000 from a year earlier. The Indiana meat and other goat inventory was 37,000 head, unchanged from the January 1, 2023, inventory.

All goats and kids inventory in the United States on January 1, 2024, totaled 2.47 million head, down 2 percent from 2023. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.03 million head, down 2 percent from 2023. Does one year old and older, at 1.51 million head, were 2 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 438,700 head, down 4 percent from a year ago.

— USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service



US CATTLE INVENTORY DROPS TO LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 1951

BY C.J. MILLER FEBRUARY 2, 2024 | HOOSIER AG TODAY

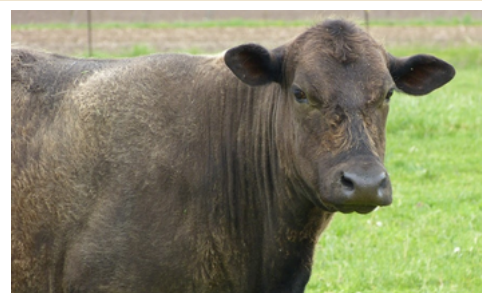
The latest cattle report from [USDA](#) shows that the cattle and calves inventory continues the decline in the current cattle cycle. Inventory peaked in 2019, and today, we're at historic lows. The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service says the last time cattle inventory was this low was in 1951 at 82.1 million head. 2024 inventory is at 87.2 million.

Of the 87.2 million head inventory on U.S. farms as of January 1, 2024:

- All cows and heifers that have calved totaled 37.6 million.
- There are 28.2 million beef cows in the United States, down two percent from last year.
- The number of milk cows in the United States decreased slightly to 9.36 million.
- The U.S. calf crop was estimated at 33.6 million head, down two percent from 2022.
- All cattle on feed were at 14.4 million head, up two percent from 2023.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service surveyed approximately 36,300 operators across the nation during the first half of January to get an accurate measurement of the current state of the U.S. cattle industry. Surveyed producers were asked to report their cattle inventories as of January 1, 2024, and calf crop for the entire year of 2023.

At the close of trade on Friday, Feb. 2, the February contract for Live Cattle was \$180.55 per hundredweight.



INDIANA AG PRODUCTS VALUED AT OVER \$18 BILLION SAYS NEW USDA CENSUS

PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 13, 2024 | HOOSIER AG TODAY

According to the newly released [agricultural census data](#) from The [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)'s [National Agricultural Statistics Service](#), Indiana remains a top agricultural state, with agricultural products valued at over \$18 billion.

“This data shows that agriculture remains a pillar of the Indiana economy with the total value of agriculture production growing 62% over the five year period,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “The Census of Agriculture is all encompassing, and it allows us to compare ourselves to fellow states, whether that is in ranking of commodities, prices, demographics and more.”



Photo Credit: Linsie Middlesworth, Marion, Indiana.

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land – whether rural or urban – growing fruit, vegetables or some food animals count if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year. The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures.

“We are thankful for all the farmers who completed the survey, this data allows our department to provide accurate and reliable information and data to Hoosiers, to farmers and to decision makers,” said Don Lamb, Indiana State Department of Agriculture director. “The data comes out every five years and its always exciting to see our statewide growth.”

Data from the census shapes programs and initiatives that benefit Indiana farmers, expands access to resources that help farmers and help farmers diversify into new markets, including local and regional food systems, specialty crops and organic production.

Listed below are some highlights from the [2022 Census of Agriculture for Indiana](#).

Indiana rankings:

- Number one producer of popcorn, gourds and duck
- Number two producer of pumpkins
- Number three producer of spearmint and turkeys
- Number four producer of peppermint and soybeans
- Number five producing state for corn and hogs
- Number six producer of eggs and watermelons
- Number ten producing state for maple syrup and hemp for floral (CBD and other cannabinoid usage)
- Total Value of Agricultural Production over \$18 billion at 65% crops and 35% livestock (up from \$11.1 million in 2017, a 64% increase)

Land data:

- Number of farms is 53,599
- Land in farms 14.6 million acres
- Average farm size 272 acres
- Top five Indiana counties with the largest number of farms: LaGrange, Elkhart, Allen, Adams & Daviess
- Top five Indiana counties with the highest value of agriculture production: Jay, Jasper, Elkhart, LaGrange, Dubois

Demographics:

- Indiana has 94,282 farmers (30,691 female and 63,321 male)
- Average age of the Hoosier Farmer is 56 years old
- Young Producers (those under 35 years old) total 11,058 with the average age as 28.7 years old
- New and Beginning farmers (those with less than 10 years experience) total 26,428 with the average age as 43.2 years old
- Producers with military service totals 6,621

Additional USDA Ag Census data will be coming out throughout the year, including the market value of ag products sold, state and county profiles, race, ethnicity and gender profiles, watershed information, specialty crops, aquaculture and more. See all those at nass.usda.gov.

Source: *Indiana State Department of Agriculture*

FORAGE TIMELY TIPS: MARCH

PUBLISHED ON MARCH 6, 2023 | KENTUCKY FORAGE NEWS

- Continue pasture renovation by no-tilling seeding legumes.
- Place small seed at 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep and check depth several times during planting; slow down for more precise seeding.
- Continue feeding hay until adequate forage exists in the pasture for grazing.
- Spring seeding of grasses should be done in early to mid-March (but fall is preferred)
- Begin smoothing and re-seeding hay feeding and heavy traffic areas.
- Graze pastures overseeded with clover to reduce competition from existing grasses (Pull off before grazing new clover plants).
- Provide free choice high-magnesium mineral to prevent grass tetany on lush spring growth.

CONCLUDING DETAILS

POSITION OPEN: 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR

- By providing results-driven educational opportunities, Indiana 4-H strives to be the premier, community-based youth program, while helping to develop and empower young people to reach their full potential. A 4-H Youth Development Educator helps young people see themselves as unique, resilient, life-long learners who actively participate in their own future – setting personal goals and practicing self-determination.
- 4-H Youth Development Educators work with community partners to create and develop educational opportunities centered on science, citizenship and healthy living. They provide leadership to the county 4-H program, focusing on 4-H clubs, groups and youth education initiatives. A significant responsibility of the 4-H Youth Development Educator is to recruit, train and develop the volunteers who work closely with the youth population.
- Dedicated to helping improve the quality of life for current and future residents, Educators collaborate with local, county and state agencies, partner organizations, businesses and schools to analyze needs, develop, implement and oversee vibrant and sustainable research based educational programs, and provide resources and expertise to the local community. The link to apply for this position is <https://careers.purdue.edu/job-invite/29968/>.

LEARN-N-BURN WOODLAND RX FIRE WORKSHOP

Join forestry and wildlife professionals for an introduction to prescribed fire in woodlands on Saturday, March 9th from 9am-2pm at the Southeast Purdue Ag Center (4425 County Rd 350 N Butlerville, IN 47223)

The workshop will cover: the benefits of prescribed fire for forest regeneration and wildlife, safety considerations when using prescribed fire, prescribed fire equipment and technical and cost-share opportunities for private landowners. There will also be a woodland prescribed fire demonstration (weather permitting).

Registration cost is \$25, including lunch.

Register online at: learnnburnmar92024.eventbrite.com.

Contact Jarred Brooke with questions at jmbrooke@purdue.edu

Field day partners are Purdue Extension Forestry and Natural Resources, the Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association, the Indiana Prescribed Fire Council, Quail Forever and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources



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Extension - Harrison County

Over the Back Fence

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter

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Extension Educator
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Tara Beckman
Extension Educator
Health and Human Sciences

Position Open
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development

Katie Davidson
Community Wellness Coordinator (CWC)
Floyd, Clark, and Harrison Counties

Cindy Finerfrock
Nutrition Education Program Advisor (NEPA)
Floyd, Clark, and Harrison Counties

Mary Eve
Office Manager

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