



THE AG CONNECTION

Steuben County News and Events for Purdue Extension Programs including Ag & Natural Resources

December 2022



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 14 - Steuben County Farm Bureau Meeting

December 23-Jan 2 - Purdue Extension Office Closed, University Recess

January 17-19 - Fort Wayne, Indiana Farm Show

January 18, 25, Feb 1, 8 -Land Leasing Strategies for Midwestern Ag Women

January 11 - Steuben County Farm Bureau Meeting

February 27 - April 13 - Master Gardener Course

March 6 - Michiana Irrigated Corn & Soybean Conference



 Find us on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/SteubenCounty>

For more information on these events contact Reba at the office or check out our Facebook Page!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Power of Negotiation & Communication

Land Leasing Strategies for Midwestern Ag Women



JAN. 18 | JAN. 25 | FEB. 1 | FEB. 8

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

K-STATE
Research and Extension

N
EXTENSION

P PURDUE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

NORTH-CENTRAL
EXTENSION
RISK
MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION

INDIANA REGISTRATION DETAILS

Jan. 18 | Jan. 25 | Feb. 1 | Feb. 8 **2023** 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Participants should plan to attend each session.
Dinner is included at the start of every workshop.



Register at puext.in/PowerOfNegotiation

In-person: \$50 | Attend Online: \$75

Questions? Contact Jenna Nees at smith535@purdue.edu or 765-653-8411.

City	Location	Address
Auburn	DeKalb County Office Building	215 E 9th Street

Join Us for Lunch!



11:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 18



Luncheon Program
Location: Appleseed Room B

Sponsored by: Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.,
Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington,
LaGrange, Noble, Steuben,
Wells, and Whitley County Farm Bureaus

Please note that only 150 meals will be
available for this event and they will be
provided on a first come - first served basis!



Support the FFA auction
1 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday,
January 17th and 18th

**Tuesday, January 17
Appleseed Room A**

10:00 a.m.

Midwest Ag Market Outlook

Jon Cavanaugh

Market Analyst

David Kohli

Adjunct Professor, Ivy Tech

Ryan Martin

Farm Origination Specialist,

Louis Dreyfus Co.

Rob Winters

Farm Director,

News/Talk 1190, WOWO

11:30 a.m.

5 Ways to Lose the Family Farm

Dan Gordon

Owner, Attorney,

Gordon Legal

2:00 p.m.

Distilling Down Digital Agriculture

PARP, CCH, CEU Credits Available

John Scott

Digital Agriculture Extension Specialist,

Purdue University

James Wolff

Ag & Natural Resources Educator,

County Extension Director,

Purdue Extension, Allen County



4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Educational Seminars
Provided by:



**Northeast Indiana
Soil and Water
Conservation Districts**



Extension

Assistance and programs of the
Soil and Water Conservation Districts,
Natural Resources Conservation Service,
ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation and
Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
are available without regard to race,
religion, color, sex, age or disability.

**Wednesday, January 18
Appleseed Room A**

10:00 a.m.

Manage Farm Finances for Free in 2023

Jim Mintert

Director,

Center for Commercial Agriculture,

Purdue University

11:30 a.m. (Luncheon)

Farm Bill and Federal Policies

Appleseed Room B

Randy Kron

President, Indiana Farm Bureau

(Senator Braun and Representative Baird, invited)

See reverse panel for luncheon info.

2:00 p.m.

Fertilizer & Commodity Outlook

Josh Vollmar

Director, Commodities & Risk,

The Andersons Inc.

Alternative Fertilizers

Theresa Dirksen

Ag & Natural Resources Director,

Mercer County, OH

Maximizing Your Fertilizer Investment

Ben Wicker

Director,

Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance

5:30 p.m.

Innovative Ways To Tell Your Ag Story

Aaron Chaflet,

Chaflet Brothers Partnership

Chris Steele, Steele Farms



January 17-19, 2023

**Allen County
War Memorial Coliseum**

Educational Seminars

Provided By:

Northeast Indiana Soil and

Water Conservation Districts

and

Purdue Cooperative

Extension Service

**Major Farm
Manufacturing and Distributor
Trade Show**

January 17 9 AM - 5 PM

January 18 9 AM - 8 PM

January 19 9 AM - 4 PM

**Thursday, January 19
Appleseed Room A**

10:00 a.m.

Looking Beyond the Basics of ARC/PLC

Jason Williamson

COO, Commercial Lines Manager,

Williamson Insurance

11:00 a.m.

Farm Pond Fish & Weed Management

Bill Horan

Director,

Purdue Extension, Wells County

12:30 p.m.

Using Drones on Farms

Purdue 'Quad Squad' (Drone Team)

January 17-19, 2023

**Allen County
War Memorial Coliseum**

Be sure to visit our booths on
the lower level, Expo Hall 4

For more educational resources visit
WWW.ALLENSWCD.ORG or scan the code





Extension

Learn about the latest research in grazing, soil science and health at the:

2023 HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE!



More information to be posted on the Indiana Forage Council website and Facebook page.

www.indianaforage.org

2023 Heart of America Grazing Conference taking place
February 20-21, 2023 in Ferdinand, IN

2023

For More Information, Visit:

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/dekalb>

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/steuben>

MASTER GARDENER INTERN TRAINING

**MONDAYS &
THURSDAYS**
FEBRUARY 27-APRIL 13
5:30-8:30 PM



DeKalb County
215 E 9th Street
Auburn, IN 46706

Steuben County
317 S Wayne St #1A
Angola, IN 46703

TOPICS INCLUDE

SOILS AND PLANT NUTRITION
PLANT SCIENCE
PESTICIDE SAFETY AND PESTICIDE ALTERNATIVES
PLANT DISEASE DIAGNOSIS
INSECT IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL
WEED IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL

LAWN CARE
VEGETABLE GARDENING
FRUIT GARDENING
HERBACEOUS ORNAMENTALS
WOODY ORNAMENTALS
INVASIVE SPECIES AND ANIMAL PESTS

EA/FEO

ENJOY YOUR TREE THIS SEASON

By Reba Wicker

Everyone knows how stressful the holidays can be. Spending money, traveling, and making sure Christmas dinner doesn't come out of the oven burnt. So why not make this year less stressful (and less messy) by taking these steps for a fresh cut Christmas tree that will last.

Selecting a Fresh Tree

Finding a fresh tree at a cut-your-own tree farm is essential to a tree's keepability. Selecting a tree that has good needle retention and an overall fresh green appearance with few browning needles puts you ahead of the game. Make sure to check for needles that are flexible and won't fall off a branch when running your hands through them.

If you decide to select a tree from a tree lot or garden center, the pull test of the needles will also be a good indicator for its freshness.

Maintaining freshness

If the tree has been cut within the past 12 hours, it will not be necessary to recut the trunk prior to display indoors.

Keeping a high moisture level in the tree is the most important factor in reducing needle loss. Finding a tree stand that has adequate water-holding capacity. Trees will absorb a surprising amount of water, so make sure to replenish daily. Keeping the tree away from heat sources such as, fireplaces, heaters, and heat vents to help reduce the amount of water taken up in the long run.



Holiday season is over

All good things must come to an end, and when it's time to take the tree down there are a few things that can be done with it. If you live in the City of Angola, the street department will collect trees brought to the curbside on December 27th and run till January 13th. These trees are collected and chopped into mulch, sent to the wastewater treatment plant in town, and then used to mix with compost and created into topsoil that is sold. This composting program has been running since 2007.

If you live out in the country, there are a few more options available. This includes, using the tree for habitat and shelter for birds and other wildlife, or giving fish shelter within the pond.



Caring for your poinsettia plant

Story by Abby Leeds - December 12, 2021



Best known for its bright red flowers and dark green leaves, the poinsettia spreads holiday cheer. Karen Mitchell, consumer horticulture Extension specialist, shares how to properly care for this delicate plant.

What are the signs of a healthy poinsettia?

When buying a poinsettia, look for dark green leaves. Unhealthy poinsettias will have yellowing leaves, wilting leaves, or leaves that easily drop off the plant. Also check that the soil is not bone-dry or sopping-wet as either may indicate inconsistent care and a stressed plant.

How do you properly care for poinsettias?

Poinsettias prefer sun, so place them near a bright window, but keep them protected from cold temperatures. Do not allow the foliage or flowers to contact a cold window glass. Poinsettias should be watered when the top inch of soil feels dry to the touch. If the pot is wrapped in foil, make sure to poke holes through the bottom for excess water to drain.

Poinsettias are a tropical perennial, which means they can live for many years. It is possible to grow them inside in Indiana as a perennial, but obtaining the beautiful color each holiday season is difficult due to the specific length of darkness required.

What do you recommend doing with poinsettias after the holidays?

Once you have enjoyed the beautiful, colorful bracts of the poinsettia, it can be tossed into the compost bin.

Are poinsettias dangerous for children and pets?

While it is always best to keep plants out of reach of children and pets, poinsettias are not deadly. Some people and pets may experience skin irritation from touching the plant due to its milky sap.

What advice do you have for people purchasing poinsettias as gifts?

Keep the plant protected from cold temperatures during transport! Plants left in an unheated car are not likely to survive the winter cold.

Managing Your Woods for White-Tailed Deer

Authors Jarred Brooke, Mitchell Zischke, Fred Whitford, and Phil Cox

The first step in determining what needs to be done to improve deer habitat is to step back and take a look at what the property has to offer. You should take note of the food and cover available to deer, and the overall condition of the habitat. Evaluating these habitat components can help determine the positive - and negative - aspects of your property and help identify limiting factors for deer. If you own a small property, it's important to consider the quality of habitat in the surrounding landscape and how your property can be strategically improved to increase habitat quality for deer in your area.



Things to consider:

- What vegetation types (e.g., forest, crops, pasture, old fields) are on your property?
- What are the relative percentages of each of those vegetation types?
- What overstory trees are common in your woods?
- Are all the trees in your woods a similar size or age, or do you have a wide range of tree sizes and age?
 - Are your woods part of a larger forest or are they isolated? Once you get an overall picture of your property, you can grade the current condition of your woods in terms of deer habitat quality.

Here are a few questions to see if the woods on your property makes the grade:

- Are your forested areas mostly mature closed-canopy forest?
- Is the understory of your woods bare?
- Are oaks lacking in the overstory and/or understory?
- Are there lots of sugar maple and American beech trees in the understory?
- Are invasive plants common in your woods? If you answered yes, to any or all of these questions, then there are several ways you can improve your woods for deer. These are all signs that a lack of food and/or cover is likely limiting habitat quality for deer in your woods. If you are still unsure about the quality of your woods for deer, you should reach out to a forestry or wildlife professional to help evaluate your property.

For the full publication check out :<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-596-W.pdf>

Purdue Extension Steuben County
317 South Wayne St, Suite 1A
Angola IN 46703-1958

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Extension - Steuben County

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