



THE AG CONNECTION

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

First Quarter • March 2022



WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

Welcome to our FIRST Ag & Natural Resources newsletter from Purdue Extension - Steuben County.

The purpose of these newsletters will be to educate and inform the residents of Steuben County of the important Extension events that are happening. There will also be helpful articles written by university specialists throughout the country. Topics such as entomology, horticulture, ag business, turf management, natural resources, 4-H, farming practices, and so much more!





Welcome Reba Wicker !

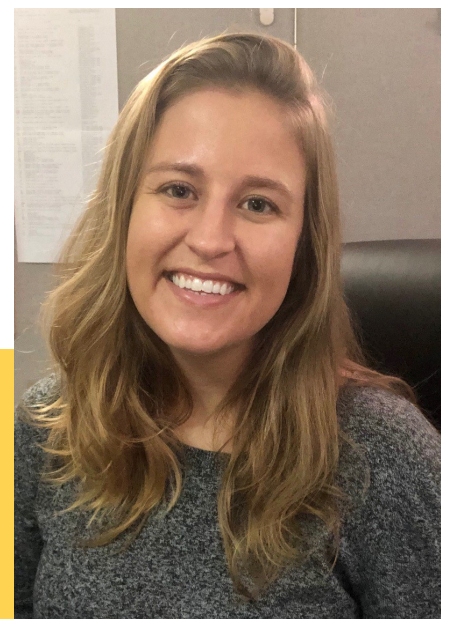
In January Reba started her new position as the Ag & Natural Resources and Community Development Extension Educator. Reba was raised in Edon, Ohio, where she grew up participating in 4-H and FFA, showing hogs at the Williams County fair. After graduating high school, Reba attended The Ohio State University where she pursued a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a minor in agribusiness. While attending school, she worked at the university greenhouses and spent a summer at the Indianapolis Museum of Art working in the Newfield gardens.

*I'm excited to be in Steuben County!
Growing up my family would come to Angola
often, so I already feel as if I'm home!*

For much of her career, Reba has worked in conservation. Her most recent position was at the Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District. As the Nutrient Management Specialist, she was the lead investigator for manure complaints in Defiance and Williams Counties.

In her free time, you will find Reba golfing, running, or spending time with her niece and nephew.

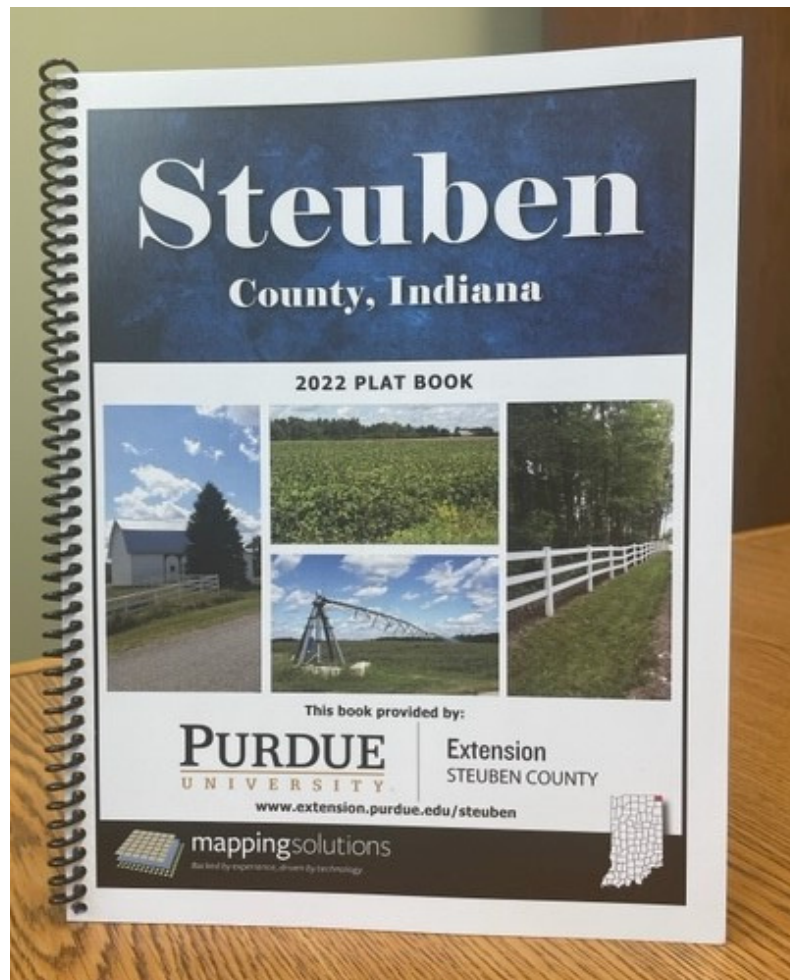
Reba is excited to start her position for Steuben County as the Ag and Natural Resources and Community Development Extension Educator. She hopes to bring her knowledge and passion for agriculture to the community in Steuben County.



2022 STEUBEN COUNTY PLAT BOOKS AVAILABLE

Available for purchase during office hours

Monday - Friday: 8:00AM-4:30PM
317 S. Wayne St., Suite 1A
Angola, IN 46703



\$20 PLAT BOOKS FOR SALE

Enter to win a FREE
Steuben County Wall Map
by March 31st!

Purchase is not necessary, but entry must be made in person.

PROGRAMS COMING SOON

Noble County Master Gardeners 4th Symposium

**March 12, 2022
8:30 am to 3:30pm**

"Seed to Soil"



West Noble Middle School
Charger Hall
5194 US Hwy 33
Ligonier, IN 46767



Please join us for this fun educational event. We have a variety of interesting speakers and different subjects for the backyard gardener to advanced master growers.

All programs are open to the public so bring a friend or two.

For individuals gardeners seeking continuing education credits, this symposium counts as 5 hrs educational credits.



Purdue University is an Affirmative Action Institution.

Directions to Event



From North: South on US 5, 20 miles from Shipshewana, thru light at US 6, thru light at US 33 & 5. Left at WN Schools main entrance

From South: North on US 33, 40 miles from Fort Wayne, just before US 5 right at WN Schools main entrance

From East: West on US 6, 25 miles from Kendallville, left at light at US 33, thru light at 5, drive 2 miles and left at WN Schools main entrance.

From West: East on US 6, 20 miles from Goshen, right on US 33, drive south 2 miles thru light at US 33 and 5. Left at WN Schools main entrance.

"Helping Others Grow"

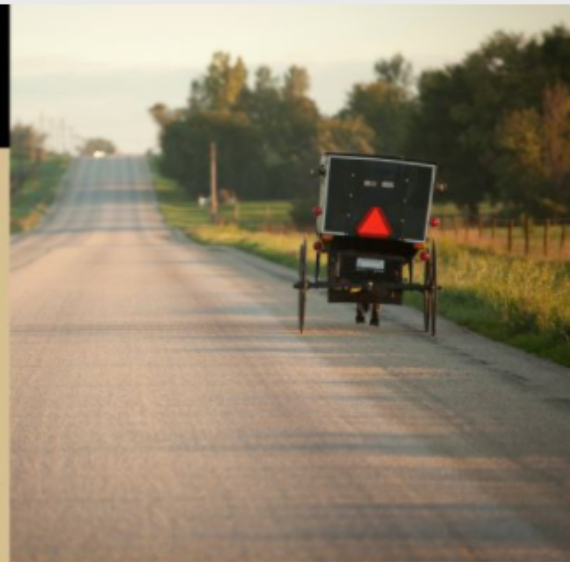


PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



CONNECTING WITH AMISH AND OTHER PLAIN COMMUNITIES

A conference for Extension and
related agency professionals



REGISTER TODAY AT: <https://puext.in/AmishConference>

March 29, 2022 – March 31, 2022



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



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

Get Your Hands Dirty

Growing Your Garden Series

	<p>Thursday, April 28</p> <p>Planning a Garden</p> <p>soil sampling + garden planning</p>
	<p>Thursday, May 12</p> <p>Plant Nutrients & Soil</p> <p>interpreting soil tests + fertilizing</p>
	<p>Thursday, September 8</p> <p>Harvest Tips & Lunch</p> <p>hands-on garden tips + Harvest Lunch!</p>
	<p>Thursday, September 22</p> <p>Year-end Garden Care</p> <p>winter prep + cover crops</p>

Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 am

Community Learning Center, 401 E Diamond St., Kendallville

\$25 registration fee for the series - includes a soil analysis!

Register at bit.ly/extensionevent or call 260-636-2111



VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



2022 Purdue Extension Small Ruminant Lunch & Learn Webinars

Join the Purdue Extension Small Ruminant Team for an exciting line up of topics for 2022. Each session will take place at **12:00 PM EST**. See the full list on the next page

Permanent link for ALL Webinars in 2022:

<https://bit.ly/2022PurdueSheepGoat>



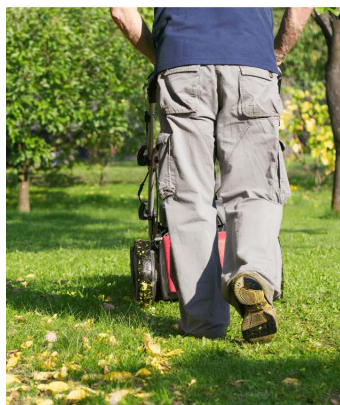
Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service is an Affirmative Action, Equal Access/Equal Opportunity institution.

Horticulture



DIY Lawncare Signature Program

Create and Maintain Your Dream Lawn with Purdue Extension



Do you want to know how to have a greener, healthier lawn? Join us for this series where you will receive information on essential turf basics needed to lay the groundwork for creating, establishing, and maintaining your lawn.

Who should join?

- Homeowners
- Property Renters
- Homeowner Associations

What will I learn?

- Session 1: Basics of Taking Care of Lawns
- Session 2: Lawn Pests and Problems
- Session 3: Weed Identification and Management
- Session 4: Seeding Establishment and Lawn Renovation

Sign up today!

Details for your DIY Lawncare program – and how to register – are below:

County Name: Area 8

Dates: March 14, 16, 21 & 23 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Virtual Event via Zoom

Register at: https://cvent.me/VyqwAn

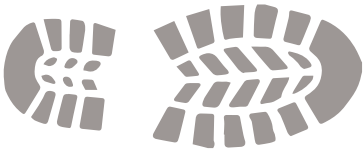
Registration Deadline: March 7

Program Fee: \$10

[@PurdueHortLA](https://twitter.com/PurdueHortLA)

www.facebook.com/PurdueHorticultureAndLandscapeArchitecture

[purduehla](https://www.instagram.com/purduehla)



GIVE THOSE WEEDS THE BOOT!

Ground Ivy Facts:

- Perennial broadleaf
- In the Mint family, and therefore has square stems
- Light blue to bluish-purple tubular flowers in spring
- Aboveground roots (stolons) grow from each leaf node as it creeps along the soil surface
- Can quickly spread, smothering other vegetation

Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) goes by many names; Creeping Charlie is the most common, but you may also hear this weed called gill-over-the-ground. It is a common foe in lawns and home landscapes.

The primary control mechanism is encouraging healthy existing plants, whether turf, garden, or landscape plants. If in lawns, cut grass to be a taller height (2.5 to 3.5 inches) for better competition.

Hand pulling and cultural controls are possible if the ground ivy is isolated.

Chemical control options include triclopyr, 2,4-D, MCP, and dicamba. More than one application may be needed. Be sure to read and follow label directions.



By Ann Kline ANR Educator -Noble County

Flower Power



Photo by Reba Wicker

Zinnias are one of the easiest flowers to grow. Zinnia flowers can add great color to any garden that is in full sun. These flowers are annuals, so they will grow for one season and produce seeds. The original plant will not come back after a cold winter.

These daisy-like flower heads are great for cutting flowers and bringing beneficial insects to your yard. You can plant zinnias from seed right into the garden, or start the seeds indoors and transplant them. It's important to plant them once the soil conditions are warm and the frost-free date

has passed. Steuben County is located in zone 5b with a frost-free date of May 8, 2022. Sowing seeds every week, or succession planting, will give you an extended flowering period.

Grow successful vegetable gardens in small spaces

by Dixie Sandborn of MSU Extension

Gardening rules have changed, gone are the days when you needed a huge plot of land to enjoy the fruits of your harvest. Many of us do not have the space or time to have an acre garden plot, but we can still enjoy eating a juicy tomato from the vine and grill up some great home-grown veggies.

There are many tips and tricks to intense gardening in small spaces – square-foot gardening, vertical gardening, container gardening, and key-hole gardening are a few. You should also consider incorporating vegetables in your ornamental and flower beds as a great way to sneak in a few great tasting vegetables with minimal space and work.

There are no rules – gardening does not have to be long endless rows. Beans still taste crisp and sweet growing on a teepee. Carrot, radishes and lettuce make a great porch salad bowl. It's interesting, the textures are fun and they taste good too. There are a few essentials you need: good soil, about 6 hours of sunlight a day and water. After you have these basic needs figured out, be creative. Beets and Bright Lights Swiss chard look great in flowering pots of annual flowers on the patio, the greens have a spark of color and the texture is more interesting than spike plants.

Don't feel limited by the amount of space you have in your yard – you can still grow a bountiful vegetable garden for your family.



Pole beans on a trellis are a fun way to add dimension to the garden. For example, purple runner beans are used as an ornamental, but are also edible. There are many varieties of vegetables that adapt well to containers and are bred to grow in small spaces.

Anything named dwarf, tiny, patio, pixie or baby is a good bet to plant in a small space. For more information on small-space gardening, see “What is intensive gardening” on the Michigan State University Extension website.



Source:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/grow_successful_vegetable_gardens_in_small_spaces

NEW
EDITION

Cover Crop Field Guide

Third Edition

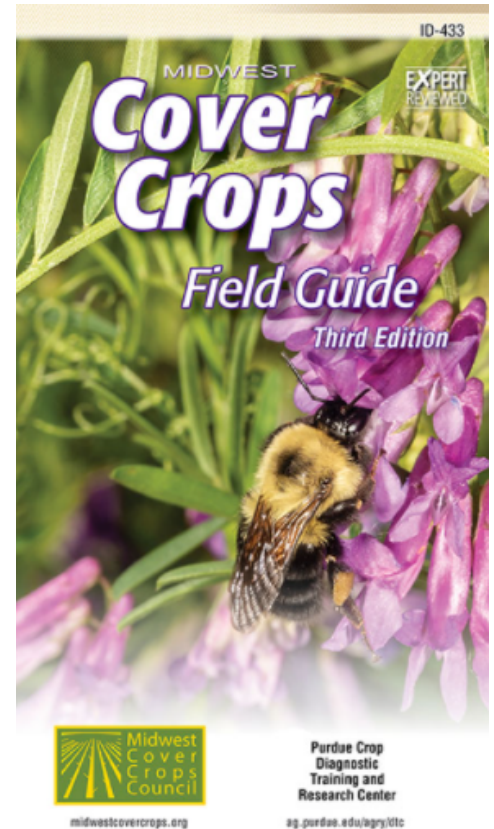
As farmers are looking to slow erosion, capture nutrients, and improve soil health, it's always nice to have something handy to refer to, especially with those tough questions about, planting to termination and other decisions that need to be made when it comes to trying out cover crops.

The Midwest Cover Crops Council (MCCC), is composed of representatives from 12 Midwest states and the province of Ontario. Agricultural stakeholders and universities, including Purdue have released a new edition of the Cover Crop Field Guide. This pocket-sized guide is a great reference to help growers effectively select, grow, and use cover crops. There are many topics included in this guide such as cover crop selection, potential pests, effects of cover crops, and cropping system recommendations.

Updates from expert-reviewed information in the guide include, recommendations for cover crop termination in wet springs and planting into green crops. This updated guide has also expanded the species section to incorporate white clover, forage brassicas, balansa clover and various cover crops commonly used in mixes.

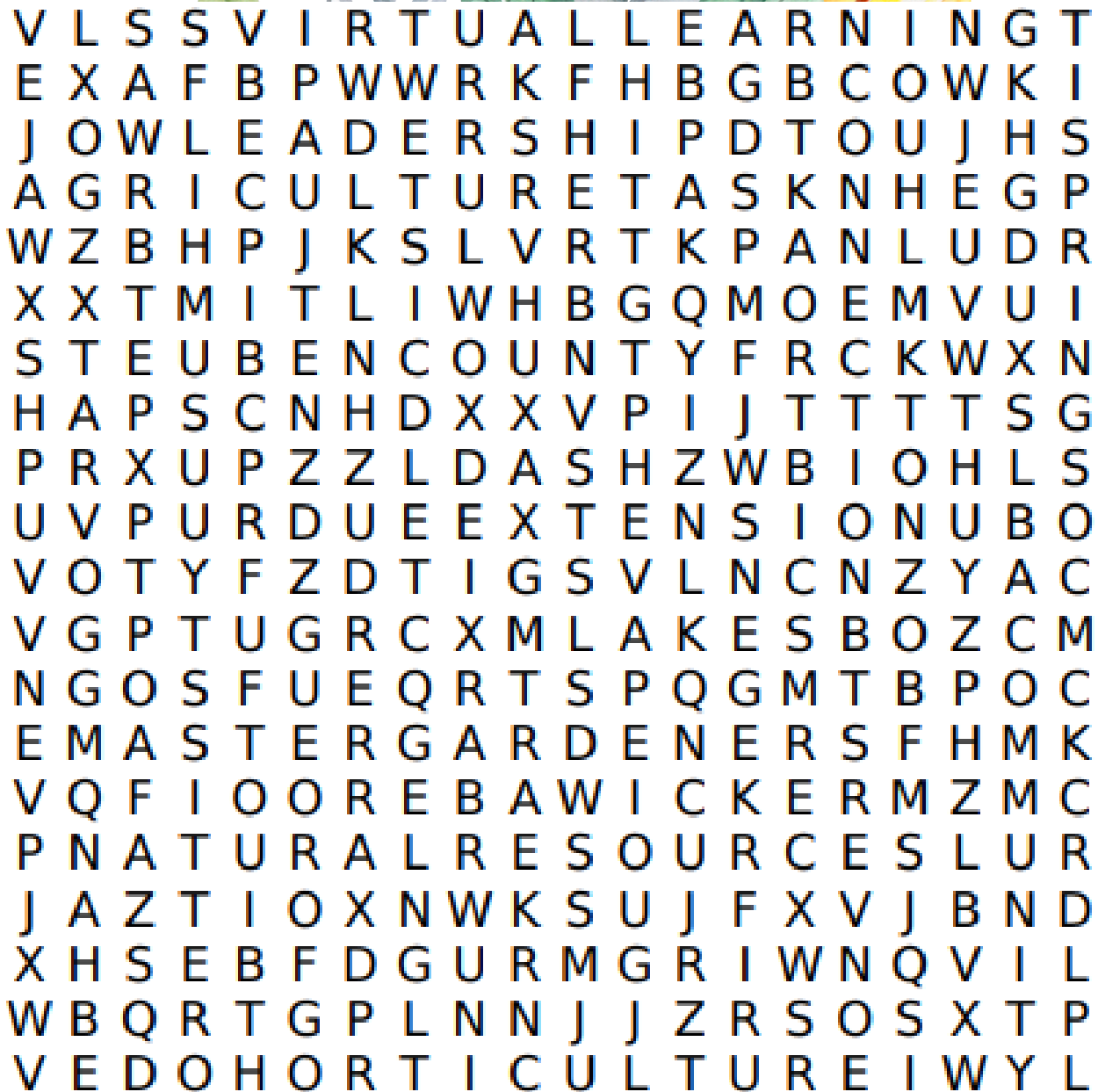
The guide costs \$6 with a 10% quantity discount available on boxes of 25. Purchases can be made through Purdue's Education Store.

Found here: <https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/>



Celebrate Spring with Extension!

Complete the crossword and return to the office by April 1st to be placed in a drawing to win a prize!



V L S S V I R T U A L L E A R N I N G T
E X A F B P W W R K F H B G B C O W K I
J O W L E A D E R S H I P D T O U J H S
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V E D O H O R T I C U L T U R E I W Y L

PURDUE EXTENSION
NATURAL RESOURCES
STEUBEN COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS
VIRTUAL LEARNING
CONNECTION
LEADERSHIP

AGRICULTURE
LAKES
REBA WICKER
HORTICULTURE
SPRING
COMMUNITY

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