

Welcome, May!



New Ground Farm, Bloomington, IN

May is a pivotal month for Indiana farmers as the growing season gains full momentum. Planting is underway across much of the state with a wide range of crops going into the ground. For vegetable and specialty crop growers, succession planting, transplanting warm-season crops, and maintaining consistent soil moisture are key priorities. As soil temperatures rise, so does the potential for rapid weed growth, insect activity, and early disease development, which makes timely scouting and integrated pest management essential.

High tunnels and greenhouse operations are now in full production with attention focused on ventilation, irrigation scheduling, and overall crop health. Small fruit and orchard producers are managing fruit set and early development, while remaining alert to weather-related challenges such as late frost events, hail, and excessive rainfall. Nutrient management, particularly nitrogen applications, should be carefully timed to match crop needs and field conditions.

With the season accelerating, now is an ideal time to evaluate labor availability, equipment needs, and input supplies to avoid disruptions during peak workload periods. Producers are also encouraged to stay informed on market conditions and explore opportunities for direct sales, CSAs, and local partnerships as demand for fresh, local products continues to grow.

Looking ahead, Purdue Extension will be offering a variety of field days, workshops, and on-farm demonstrations throughout the summer months. These events provide valuable opportunities to see

research in action, learn about new practices and technologies, and connect with Extension educators and fellow producers. Be sure to watch county Extension updates for dates, locations, and registration details as they become available.

As always, Purdue Extension remains committed to supporting farmers with research-based information and hands-on programming. Be mindful of upcoming USDA and conservation program deadlines, explore cost-share and grant opportunities early, and stay connected for continued updates and resources throughout the growing season!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Shoaf', written in a cursive style.

Nathan Shoaf

Assistant Program Leader | Agriculture and Natural Resources

Urban Agriculture Specialist | Diversified Farming and Food Systems

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Services

MarketReady Producer Training



May 14, 2026 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. ET

**Purdue Extension - Shelby County Office
20 W. Polk St., Suite 201, Shelbyville, Indiana**

Lunch will be provided.

Cost: \$50 Indiana farm and value-added food business can receive a discount.



The **MarketReady** program helps local food producers prepare for selling wholesale by focusing on business skills needed to meet the expectations of potential buyers. Producers will learn about product quality, food safety, insurance/managing risks, marketing and more.



Secure your spot today! Registration is limited to the first 30 participants.

<https://cvent.me/e9zNkb>

If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

Sarah Hanson, food systems coordinator - sspeedy@purdue.edu

Diana Stone, HHS educator - stoned@purdue.edu



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If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Sarah Hanson prior to the meeting at 765-543-1230 and sspeedy@purdue.edu by May 7. For special dietary needs contact Sarah Hanson at 765-543-1230 and sspeedy@purdue.edu by May 7.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Sarah Hanson prior to the meeting at 765-543-1230 and sspeedy@purdue.edu by May 7.

Sponsored by:



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To receive the discount code and waive your registration fee, please email Sarah Hanson at sspeedy@purdue.edu

INDIANA RENEWABLE ENERGY

Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP™)

Renewable Energy Planning Regional Workshop

Jefferson County Public Library
420 W. Main Street, Madison, IN 47250

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

11:30 am to 3:00 pm ET



Extension - Community Development

This program is designed for planners, public officials, and community leaders seeking a better understanding of Indiana's current energy environment and utility-scale renewable energy developments as you make planning and policy decisions in your community.

Free to Attend

Registration required by Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

Lunch will be provided to all participants

Space is limited.

To register, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/4bXX9n2>



If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Lisa Dan, Midwest Outreach Director, Center for Energy Education prior to the event at 574-806-4898, or lisa.dan@center4ee.org by May 1, 2026.

If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Lisa Dan, Midwest Outreach Director, Center for Energy Education prior to the event at 574-806-4898, or lisa.dan@center4ee.org by May 1, 2026.

Center for Energy Education contact: *Lisa Dan* (lisa.dan@center4ee.org)

Purdue Extension Community Development contact: *Tamara Ogle*
(togle@purdue.edu)



puext.in/rstep

Register Here

Small Farm and Garden Intensive

For Indiana Conservation Partnership staff

MAY
13
2026

- 9:30 - 3:30 Eastern
- Girl Scouts of Central Indiana and Marion County SWCD demo garden
- Lunch provided



Small Farm and Garden Intensive

Date: May 13, 2026

Time: 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM Eastern

Morning Indoor Session:

Girl Scouts of Central Indiana, 7201 Girl Scout Ln, Indianapolis, IN 46214

Afternoon Field Session:

Marion County SWCD Demonstration Garden, West 56th Street & Reed Road, Indianapolis, IN 46254

Lunch: Provided in partnership with North Central SARE

Register by May 7 to secure your lunch spot.

Step through the process of planning and implementing soil health practices and holistic conservation in small-scale agriculture. We know soil health matters—this workshop focuses on the practical steps needed to plan and implement it on small farms and gardens.

The morning indoor session will walk through crop planning and conservation practice planning in intensive vegetable production. Learn how to use Indiana tools and resources to build a complete soil health strategy. In the afternoon field session, participants will tour the Marion County SWCD Demonstration Garden and see these practices applied bed-by-bed. Demonstrations will include crop maintenance, tools and weed management, cover crops and mulch, reduced tillage, pest management and tarping, composting, nutrient management, and wildlife habitat plantings.

Trainers:

Elli Blaine, IN Small Farms

Kevin Allison, Marion County SWCD

Cara Bergschneider, Indiana USDA-NRCS

We hope to see you there!

This work is supported by Indiana Small Farms Conservation, Marion County SWCD, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, North Central SARE, and Clean Water Indiana. This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under agreement number 2024-38640-42989 through the North Central Region SARE program under project number ENC24-233. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Register Here

PURDUE FOOD SCIENCE "ASK AN EXPERT" FOR FOODPRENEURS IS BACK FOR THE SPRING 2026 SESSION!

When?

- 1/28/26 through 5/20/26 — every other Wednesday 1pm-2 pm EST
- Capacity: 3 participants per workshop

Who is this for?

Do you have entrepreneurs in your network that have burning questions about starting or growing a food business?

Please share this opportunity to join Purdue University's Food Entrepreneurial and Manufacturing Institute (FEMI) online for a unique opportunity to ask an expert in the field of food science, marketing, and business. Get insights, tips, and guidance to help kickstart their entrepreneurial journey in the food industry.

What is the cost?

FEMI "Ask an Expert" workshops are free. For more in-depth product-specific questions to dig in deeper, we offer \$100/hr consultation.

★ Additionally, if your team would like to host your own food entrepreneurial educational events, the FEMI team is also available for customizable food entrepreneurial workshops and presentations on a wide range of topics please reach out for more information!



Please scan
QR
to register.



[Register Here](#)



PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FIELD DAY

JULY 16, 2026

Register now at purdue.ag/fruit-veg-field-day

Register Here



PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

SMALL FARM EDUCATION FIELD DAY

JULY 23, 2026

Register now at purdue.ag/small-farm-field-day

Register Here



DIGITAL AGRICULTURE

100% ONLINE COURSE FOR AGRICULTURE PROFESSIONALS



New digital agriculture course launched

Agriculture is evolving rapidly, and Purdue University's College of Agriculture is helping professionals keep pace with a new 100% online Digital Agriculture course. Designed for agricultural input suppliers, equipment dealers, educators, growers and anyone eager to expand their understanding of modern farming, this 10-module program explores how precision farming, data, AI, and automation are reshaping the way food, feed and fiber are produced. From learning GPS guidance systems to data-driven decision making, participants gain the skills needed to navigate today's technology-rich landscape. As farms face tight margins and increasing demands for efficiency, this course provides the knowledge to stay ahead.

[Learn More Here](#)

The [National Farmers Union's Beginning Farmer Institute \(BFI\)](#) is a free farm business management program structured around The Resiliator™, a comprehensive 10-week course designed to improve farm and ranch business resiliency. From October to December, participants will have weekly online trainings led by farm business management experts and engage in peer-to-peer learning.

The Beginning Farmer Institute is open to any U.S. producer over age 18. Applicants must be currently farming or ranching, and the operation must be for-profit. Operations of any size and type may apply. You do not have to be the owner of the operation but must be considered a key decision-maker.

Application deadline is July 1, 2026.

[Apply Here](#)



NEXT ACRE
— VETERAN BUSINESS ACCELERATOR —

HELPING VETERAN FARMERS GROW STRONGER DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER FARM BUSINESSES.

WHAT WE OFFER

Next Acre provides practical training and technical assistance to help farmers grow their business and expand their direct-to-consumer sales.

Build a Clear Growth Plan

Clarify Growth Readiness, Goals, and Market Position

Refine Products, Sales Channels, and Focus Areas

Strengthen Operations and Team Capacity

Develop Financial and Marketing Strategies

- For Veteran and Rural-Owned Agricultural Businesses
- Synchronous Learning Experiences
- Peer Collaboration



317-502-4489



nicole@ateaseorchard.com



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FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO SIGN UP



Learn More Here



URBAN FOOD
SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM

KANSAS STATE
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Join us for the 2026
Biennial Urban Food
Systems Symposium in
Kansas City

September 14th - 17th

Cultivating Communities,
Cities, & Food Systems

The 2026 symposium will be held **September 14-17 in Kansas City, Missouri**. The theme of the symposium is "**Cultivating Communities, Cities, and Food Systems.**"

This multi-day symposium brings together a national and international audience of academics, non-profit professionals, government officials, and research-oriented experts to share and gain knowledge on urban food systems. We welcome and encourage a wide variety of abstracts – whether they are academic, policy-oriented, educational, or program-specific.

If you have questions, you can reach us at UFSS@ksu.edu

Register Here

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FACTS FOR

FANCY FRUIT

A Newsletter for Commercial and Advanced Amateur fruit growers.

Facts for Fancy Fruit is a newsletter for commercial and advanced amateur fruit growers. It provides timely information on weather conditions, production practices, pest and disease control, and other topics likely to be of interest to fruit growers.

[**Subscribe Here**](#)



The Vegetable Crops Hotline is a newsletter for commercial vegetable growers that the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service prepares. The newsletter aims to bring timely information to vegetable growers between February and October.

[**Subscribe Here**](#)

Share your Scenes from Diversified Farming and Food Systems in Indiana

Do you have photos that capture the unique aspects of Indiana's agricultural production or food distribution systems? We would love for you to share them with us! Your photos could help shine a light on underrepresented facets of the industry and will be used by the DFFS staff and Purdue Agricultural Communications in materials such as newsletters, promotional content for programs like Market Ready, the Small Farm Conference, field days, and more.

You can share your photos either through this link or by utilizing the QR code below. The photo size limit is 16MB.

We will attribute all photos we utilize. Thanks in advance for sharing the breadth and diversity of agricultural production in Indiana.



Share Here

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