

INDIANA SMALL FARM CONFERENCE

2024

Bringing together small-scale farmers for guidance, networking and expert information to help them succeed since 2013.



Keynote Speaker:
Michael Kilpatrick



SF

THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

OVERALL SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



SEEDLING SPONSORS



Welcome to Purdue Extension's 12th Annual Indiana Small Farm Conference!

This conference is made possible through the generous support of the sponsoring organizations listed on the previous page. Special thanks to Bernie Engel, Ronald Turco and Angela Abbott for supporting Indiana's small farms and sustainable agriculture efforts. Lastly, the Indiana Small Farm Conference would not be possible without continued support and participation from you, Indiana's small- and diversified-farmer producers and professionals.



INDIANA SMALL FARM CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Amy Thompson (Chair)
 Laura Ingwell (Co-chair)
 Ashley Adair
 Brooke Alford
 Richard Beckort
 Phillip Cox
 Emily Evers
 Jayde Grisham

Sarah Hanson
 Jeff Hermesch
 Mike Hoopengardner
 Julie Huetteman
 Mathias Ingle
 Nyssa Lilovich
 Karen Mitchell
 Jeffery Pell

Jennifer Pluhar
 Heidi Potter
 Courtney Schmidt
 Brad Sewell
 Nathan Shoaf
 Crystal Van Pelt
 James Wolff

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Conference Information	5
Keynote Speakers	7
Sessions Schedule Overview	8
Session Descriptions	10
Speaker Biographies	16

Program Editor:
 Nyssa Lilovich

Program Designer:
 Tim Thompson

On behalf of Purdue Agriculture, Agricultural Research at Purdue, and Purdue Extension, we are delighted to welcome you to the 12th Annual Indiana Small Farm Conference!

It's an honor to host this event and help you advance small-farm production and profitability. We are thankful that this event has continued through the years and appreciate all of the involvement over the past 12 years.

Purdue University's College of Agriculture proudly serves a diversity of Indiana farms. We're excited to see growth in small and urban farms — highly entrepreneurial areas of agriculture powered by passionate producers, exciting ideas and bright futures. Purdue researchers, specialists and Extension educators combine leading-edge science and locally delivered programs to help you capitalize on opportunities for years to come.

At this conference, you'll hear from many of our professionals firsthand, along with industry experts and fellow small-farm producers. With a variety of sessions, the trade show and networking options, the schedule has something for everyone. We're especially excited about new sessions in fiber farming, agritourism, flower farming and more networking opportunities than any previous year. We're also thrilled to continue sessions geared toward young farmers and those in urban settings.



Want to explore additional resources and stay up to date on Purdue Agriculture's work?

- Visit your county Purdue Extension website extension.purdue.edu
- Visit Purdue Extension's Small Farm website purdue.edu/dffs/smallfarms
- Visit Purdue Extension's Diversified Farming and Food Systems website purdue.edu/dffs
- Visit the Agricultural Research at Purdue website ag.purdue.edu/arp

Lastly, please join us in thanking the conference committee for its creativity, dedication and hard work to host this event and all those who work hard to keep small-farm producers on backroads and busy streets connected to expert information and each other.

HAVE A GREAT CONFERENCE!

Bernie Engel, Ph.D.
Glenn W Sample Dean of Agriculture,
Purdue University

Ronald Turco, Ph.D.
Associate Dean Ag Research and
Graduate Education

Angela Abbott, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Dean and Interim
Director Purdue Extension

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Surveys

Thank you for attending the 2024 Indiana Small Farm Conference. Following the conference, you will receive a survey to contribute your feedback and suggestions. Please take a moment to complete the survey, once received, as it will impact the future of the Indiana Small Farm Conference. Your participation is voluntary and confidential.

Questions?

Contact Amy Thompson
afthompson@purdue.edu
(765) 496-1930
purdue.edu/dffs/smallfarms/about-us/


Social Media

We would love for you to share your experiences at the 2024 Indiana Small Farm Conference on social media using the hashtag **#IndianaSFC**.

Connect with us to stay up to date about next year's conference and other news!

 Facebook - [@PurdueExtensionSmallFarms](https://www.facebook.com/PurdueExtensionSmallFarms)

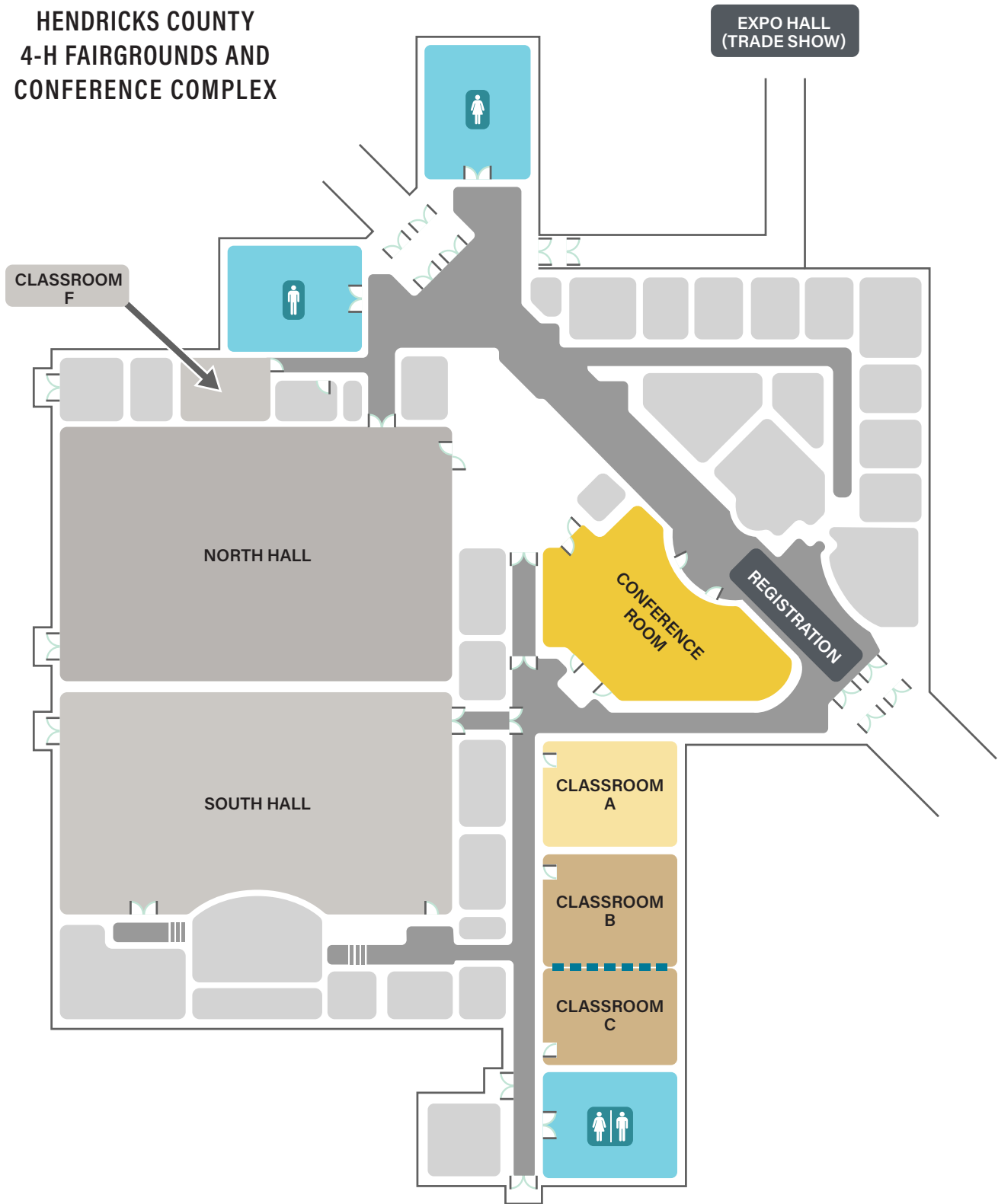
 Twitter - [@SmallFarmPurdue](https://twitter.com/SmallFarmPurdue)

 Instagram - [@PurdueDFFS](https://www.instagram.com/PurdueDFFS)



CONFERENCE MAP

HENDRICKS COUNTY
4-H FAIRGROUNDS AND
CONFERENCE COMPLEX



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Michael Kilpatrick

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 1:15 - 2:15PM EST

Keynote Address: *Thriving in Uncertain Times*

"It's the small farmers who are in the best position to provide fresh, local food their communities need. With the right systems in place, any small farmer can become a thriving, cash flowing source of food for their community."

Michael Kilpatrick is a farmer, educator and inventor and is the host of the top-rated Thriving Farmer Podcast with nearly one million downloads. He has managed large farms and businesses, consulted industry experts around the world, and spoken at dozens of conferences throughout the United States and Canada. He provides engaging, high-quality education that can be useful for both beginner and advanced farmers.

LUNCHEON

Instead of incorporating a second keynote into this year's conference agenda, we have introduced an organized yet relaxed opportunity for you to engage and network with your fellow farmers, researchers, agency personnel and more. Grab a boxed lunch and join a group that aligns with your interests, whether that be a specific topic area or a desire to connect with farmers from your region.

Our designated tables will cover a range of subjects, including Indiana regions (NE, NW, SE, SW, central), Farming segments (livestock, vegetables, fruits), representatives from various agencies and organizations, and topics like Small Farm Research Needs, Climate Change IMPACT2 Grant, Beginning Farmers, and Weed Management Methods. Pay attention to further instructions from your moderators on Friday, and keep an eye out for directional signage as you enter the north/south hall for lunch.

Note: All times listed in the program are Eastern Standard Time.

SESSIONS OVERVIEW

Thursday, February 29					Eastern Standard Time
8:00	Conference Registration				
	CLASSROOM A	NORTH HALL	CLASSROOM B-C	SOUTH HALL	CONFERENCE ROOM
8:45 - 9:45	Resilient Practices Diversify your farm with perennials <i>Jonas Carpenter, Mavourneen Farm</i>	Vegetable Production Low-cost wash/pack designs with food safety in mind <i>Amanda Deering and Scott Monroe, Purdue, Safe Produce Indiana</i> SARE Recipient	Livestock Let's Talk Turkeys- Rotational Grazing, Thanksgiving, and more <i>Liz and Nate Brownlee, Nightfall Farm</i>	Business Best Practices in Agritourism <i>Suzi Spahr, NAFDMA</i>	Urban Ag Working with youth <i>Danielle Guerin, Soul Food Indy Project</i> <i>Aster Bekele, Felege Hiywot Center</i> <i>Kathryn Orvis, Purdue</i> SARE Recipients
9:45 - 10:00	Break (Room Transitions)				
10:00 - 11:00	Resilient Practices The plastic free farm <i>Chad Gard, Hole in the Woods Farm</i>	Vegetable Production Efficiency Hacks on the Farm <i>Genesis McKiernan-Allen, Fullhand Farm</i> <i>Susan Greutman, Sunchoke Farms</i> <i>Dan Garcia, Garcia's Gardens</i>	Livestock Fiber Farming Panel <i>Eran McCarty, Whitney Schlegel, Tim and Beth Sheets</i>	Business Alternative Business Opportunities for Your Farm <i>Christina Ferrolì, IN Farmers Market Community of Practice</i>	Urban Ag Community restoration: Urban/Ag empowerment for the youth and elderly <i>Damon Bazziel, Agrowculture</i>
11:00 - Noon	Trade Show Break Trade Show Demonstration – Ashley Adair, Cover Crops				
12:00 - 1:15	Networking Luncheon – North and South Halls				
1:15 - 2:15	Keynote Session – North and South Halls Thriving In Uncertain Times Michael Kilpatrick				
2:15 - 2:30	Break				
2:30 - 3:20	Niche Opportunities Mushroom cultivation <i>Matt Kennedy, Fungi Meadows</i>	Vegetable Production Protected Culture Selection and Optimization <i>Petrus Langenhoven, Purdue</i> <i>Genesis McKiernan-Allen, Fullhand Farm</i> <i>Megan Ayers, Unvarnished Farm</i> <i>Wenjing Guan, Purdue</i>	Flowers Expanding into flowers <i>Adrian Odle, Creekside Meadows Flowers</i> <i>Joy Beghtel, Fields of Joy</i> <i>Jennifer and Broch Martindale, Wildflower Farms</i>	Business Who to contact for regulations (nuts & bolts) <i>Monty Henderson, ISBDC</i> <i>David Coates, ISDA</i>	Urban Ag Four season farming at a small scale <i>Roger and Mary Winstead, Beautiful Edibles Grow</i>
3:20-3:30	Break (Room Transitions)				
3:30 - 4:20	Niche Opportunities Growing fruits and nuts in Indiana <i>Kris Heeter, INFGA</i>	Vegetable Production Lightning round research updates from Purdue Specialists <i>Wenjing Guan, Petrus Langenhoven, Stephen Meyers, Liz Maynard</i>	Flowers Can a small farm operation make a profit flower farming? <i>David Coates, Knobstone Flower Farm</i>	Business Growing together: Finding, training and keeping stellar staff <i>Michael Kilpatrick, The Farm on Central</i>	Urban Ag Cultivating connection <i>Faith Jackson, Flavor by Faith</i>
9:00 - 4:00	Two Quiet Rooms Available				
4:30 - 6:30	Evening Social Poster Session (4:30-6:30) Trade Show Demonstration - Grafting Demo- Indiana Fruit and Nut Growers Association Trade Show Passport				

SESSIONS OVERVIEW

Friday, March 1					Eastern Standard Time
8:00	Conference Registration				
	CLASSROOM A	NORTH HALL	CLASSROOM B-C	SOUTH HALL	CONFERENCE ROOM
8:45 - 9:45	Equity & Food Security Securing Indiana's farmland future: Lessons and strategies for conservation and access <i>Eavy Barbieux and Liz Brownlee</i> <i>PIFF and the Indiana Farmland Community of Practice</i>	Vegetable Production Using Value-added Products to Decrease On-farm Food Waste While Increasing Revenue <i>Susan Greutman, Sunchoke Farms</i>	Niche Opportunities Fermenting foods and drinks for health <i>Joe Gady, Farming for Life</i>	Business Online Marketing <i>Indiana Grown Team, Brandon Caldwell and Caroline Patrick</i>	Livestock Why changes to livestock antibiotics laws make your veterinarian so essential <i>Debbie Boyd, DVM INBOAH</i>
9:45 - 10:00	Break (Room Transitions)				
10:00 - 11:00	Equity & Food Security Mrs. Niño's garden: A farm-based summer school program for teens <i>Andrea Crawford and Julia Cordova-Gurulé</i> SARE Recipient	Vegetable Production Fun with cover crops and vegetables - Experiments on a small farm <i>Aaron Yoder, Bonfiglioli USA</i>	Niche Opportunities Cage culture of fish in Indiana <i>Bob Rode, Purdue Aquaculture Research</i>	Business Agribusiness Initiative (ISBDC) <i>David Coates, ISDA; Monty Henderson, ISBDC; Sarah Hanson, Purdue Extension</i>	Livestock Protecting your flock against avian influenza <i>Geoffrey Lossie, DVM Purdue School of Vet. Med.</i>
11:00 - Noon	Trade Show Break Poster Session Trade Show Demonstration - Composting with Invertebrates, Brooke Alford and Laura Ingwell				
12:00 - 2:15	Networking Luncheon - North and South Halls				
2:15 - 2:30	Break				
2:30 - 3:20	Resilient Practices Implementing the six principles of soil health <i>John Hays, Hays Family Farm</i>	Flowers Utilizing native flowers <i>John Chapin, Tree Frog Gardens</i> <i>Nathalia Bedrava, Dancing with flowers</i>	Niche Opportunities Thriving on Marginal Land <i>Laura Northrup Poland, Strawberry Moon Farm</i>	Business Targeting your Customer/E-commerce & Shipping <i>Krista Stillwell, Stillwell+Co</i>	Urban Ag EQIP: Beyond high tunnels <i>Cara Bergschneider, NRCS</i>
3:20 - 3:30	Break (Room Transitions)				
3:30 - 4:20	Resilient Practices Digital tools for small farms <i>Ankita Raturi, Purdue Agriculture and Biological Engineering</i>	Flowers From bloom to bridal bouquet: Notes on wedding floristry for flower farmers <i>Kate Friesen, Singletree Farm</i>	Niche Opportunities Vermicomposting small business <i>Stephanie and Mark Duncan, Duncan's Worm Farm</i> SARE Recipient	Business Money, Money, Money: Finding Profit on Your Farm <i>Heidi Potter, Purdue Extension and Summer Solstice Farms</i> <i>Liz Brownlee, PIFF and Nightfall Farms</i> <i>Spencer Guinn, KCARD</i>	Urban Ag Production and pest management in high tunnels on urban farms <i>Samantha Willden and Laura Ingwell, Purdue Entomology</i>
9:00 - 4:00	Two Quiet Rooms Available				

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION / Low-Cost Wash/Pack Designs with Food Safety in Mind*by Amanda Deering and Scott Monroe*
SARE Grant Awardee**8:45 - 9:45AM** NORTH HALL

This hands-on demonstration will discuss low-cost wash/pack stations that can help you maintain food safety on the farm. The demonstration will include uses, benefits and components, construction supplies and design considerations, post-harvest sanitizers, and technical assistance opportunities through Purdue Extension.

BUSINESS/MARKETING / Best Practices in Agritourism*by Suzi Spahr***8:45 - 9:45AM** SOUTH HALL

This session will highlight several best practices that agritourism operations use for the development of visitor experience and customer sales. Discussion will center around these topics:

- Learn from those around you
- Start small and build
- Liability insurance coverage support
- Know your potential audience and partners

RESILIENT PRACTICES / Diversify Your Farm with Perennials*by Jonas Carpenter***8:45 - 9:45AM** CLASSROOM A

All types of farms can benefit from the added diversity and potential yields that perennial species offer. Perennials have many uses including pollinator and wildlife habitat, erosion control, increased soil health, green mulch production, animal fodder, shade, nuts, fruit, berries, cut floral, wild crafting, medicine, privacy, wind breaks, beauty and more. Jonas Carpenter will share his experience working on his farm, as well as other farms and home landscapes.

LIVESTOCK / Let's Talk Turkeys-Rotational Grazing, Thanksgiving, and More*by Liz and Nate Brownlee***8:45 - 9:45AM** CLASSROOM B-C

Raising pasture turkeys can build up your soil health, your pocketbook and your local food supply. Liz and Nate have been raising turkeys for over 10 years and will discuss their rotational grazing practices.

URBAN AG / Working with Youth*by Danielle Guerin, Aster Bekele and Kathryn Orvis*
SARE Grant Awardees**8:45 - 9:45AM** CONFERENCE ROOM

This panel will discuss opportunities to engage youth in urban agriculture through employment and education—cultivating the next generation of growers and entrepreneurs. These growers and urban ag professionals received SARE funding to support on-farm training, entrepreneurial skills, technical skills and more. This will be a space for hearing about experiences, resources and asking questions.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION / Efficiency Hacks on the Farm*by Genesis McKiernan-Allen, Susan Greutman and Dan Garcia***10:00 - 11:00AM** NORTH HALL

This panel will share things they have learned on the farm to make life easier. From crop location, succession planting and harvest tips, there will be something for everyone.

BUSINESS/MARKETING / Alternative Business Opportunities for Your Farm*by Christina Ferrolì***10:00 - 11:00AM** SOUTH HALL

From just testing the water to going all in, learn about trends and opportunities to take your farm or food business to the next level either on the farm, at the farmers market or via a retail food establishment. From farm-to-table dinners to pop-up events to healthy frozen meals to go, ideas to scale up your business and develop a customer following for success!

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

RESILIENT PRACTICES / The Plastic Free Farm

by Chad Gard

10:00 - 11:00AM CLASSROOM A

Delve into the journey of a diversified small market farm committed to sustainable and regenerative practices, with an endeavor to eradicate single-use plastics. Explore strategies and practical solutions employed by the farm, from transplant production to alternative packaging materials. Explore real-world challenges, successes and lessons learned, empowering attendees with actionable steps to implement change within their own farms. Example products currently in use on our farm will be available to inspire and equip participants with the knowledge and motivation to contribute actively to a plastic-free agricultural future.

LIVESTOCK / Fiber Farming Panel

by Eran McCarty, Whitney Schlegel, and Tim and Beth Sheets

10:00 - 11:00AM CLASSROOM B-C

Get insight from three farmers raising llamas, alpacas and wool sheep! Learn how they started their farms, how they create and develop their fiber products, and how the ways they sell have increased the viability of their farming enterprises.

URBAN AG / Community Restoration: Urban/Ag Empowerment for the Youth and Elderly

by Damon Bazziel

10:00 - 11:00AM CONFERENCE ROOM

Join us as we discuss how to start and maintain a community-led garden in a food desert. We will cover tips on how to empower our youth, and the elderly population, to join and participate in this life-transforming process. Hands-on how-to and an all-inclusive power discussion: growth, health and collective sustainability.

KEYNOTE / Thriving in Uncertain Times

by Michael Kilpatrick

1:15 - 2:15PM NORTH AND SOUTH HALLS

In today's fluctuating economic climate, concerns like inflation, fierce competition and declining sales can seem daunting. Join Michael in this dynamic presentation, where he'll unveil key principles vital for a successful farm operation, drawn from his almost 20 years of farming experience. Delve into practical insights as Michael breaks down crucial financial numbers, reveals effective marketing strategies, and narrates both triumphant and cautionary tales from the field. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to navigate these uncertain times, bolster their operations and foster growth despite challenges.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION / Protected Culture Selection and Optimization

by Petrus Langenhoven, Genesis McKiernan-Allen and Megan Ayers and Wenjing Guan

2:30 - 3:20PM NORTH HALL

Have you struggled with where/when/what type of protected culture to invest in? Or what crops make the most sense in our climate to grow under protection? This panel of Extension specialists and farmers will discuss the pros and cons of various protected culture techniques for vegetables and discuss what they use and why.

BUSINESS/MARKETING / What do you mean I need a permit? (Who to contact for regulations)

by Monty Henderson and David Coates

2:30 - 3:20PM SOUTH HALL

How do you know who to contact in advance for all the regulations? In this session, you will learn how to prepare, navigate and manage the various agencies and red tape.

NICHE OPPORTUNITIES / Mushroom Cultivation

by Matt Kennedy

2:30 - 3:20PM CLASSROOM A

Learn about the life cycle of fungi in this session. We will discuss the materials and equipment needed, environmental conditions, maintenance, usage and marketability.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

FLOWERS / Expanding into Flowers

by Adrian Odle, Joy Beghteland, Jennifer and Broch Martindale

2:30 – 3:20PM CLASSROOM B-C

Have you seen the beautiful pictures of flower farming on social media? Are you interested in expanding your operation into flower farming? Lift the curtain on the glamorous photos and join us in a discussion about real life flower farming. Learn what to think about before you get started, and what you can anticipate as you gain experience.

URBAN AG / Four Season Farming at a Small Scale

by Roger and Mary Winstead

2:30 – 3:20PM CONFERENCE ROOM

Learn about our journey in farming small, year-round, and utilizing new and old techniques. We'll talk about extending the season with tunnels, ground cover, row cover, exclusion netting and beneficial insects. We'll discuss what it's like to have an urban mushroom grow and how diverse crops like edible flowers help us stand out in the market, and why we have farmed cooperatively since.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION / Lightning Round Research Updates from Purdue Specialists

by Wenjing Guan, Petrus Langenhoven, Stephen Meyers and Liz Maynard

3:30 – 4:20PM NORTH HALL

Since 2018, Professor Langenhoven has evaluated thirty sweet bell and tapered pepper varieties. In his presentation, he will explore the management and performance of ten colored sweet pepper varieties (bell and tapered) produced during the 2023 growing season in a high tunnel at the Purdue Student Farm located in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Current Weed Management Research: Professor Meyers will provide an update on his team's efforts in weed management for small farms.

What compost works best in high tunnels? Are spring greens more bolt resistant? We're trying to shed light on various questions with trials at the Pinney Purdue Ag Center in Porter/LaPorte Counties. Join us for a quick rundown of what we did and what we learned over the last year.

Professor Guan will update research and Extension efforts in the following areas: strawberry production, irrigation management, high tunnel crop diversification, plant parasitic nematodes and soil health (focus on high tunnel), and vegetable grafting.

BUSINESS/MARKETING / Growing Together: Finding, Training and Keeping Stellar Staff

by Michael Kilpatrick

3:30 – 4:20PM SOUTH HALL

In "Growing Together," delve into the art of building a formidable farm team in today's agricultural landscape. This session offers a trove of insights on recruiting the right talent, implementing innovative training methods, and strategies to foster long-term staff loyalty and productivity. Drawing from real-world examples and proven techniques, you'll gain practical tools to enhance your team's dynamics, ensuring they grow not just in skill but in alignment with your farm's vision and goals. Perfect for farm owners and managers, this talk is your guide to cultivating a thriving, committed workforce.

NICHE OPPORTUNITIES / Growing Fruits and Nuts in Indiana

by Kris Heeter

3:30 – 4:20PM CLASSROOM A

Interested in growing or expanding the types of fruit and/or nuts you grow on your farm? Kris will cover the common and uncommon fruits and nuts that are currently being grown in Indiana - both native and non-native. She'll touch on some of the growing considerations, and how some of these can be for value-added products, u-picks and more.

FLOWERS / Can a Small Farm Operation Make a Profit with Flower Farming?

by David Coates

3:30 – 4:20PM CLASSROOM B-C

The allure of starting a flower farm on small acreage has grown exponentially since the pandemic. Since the interest in flower farming is at an all-time high, the basic question that every potential operator needs to determine is, can I make a profit? In this session we will explore several different flower farm models, startup costs, recurring costs, potential revenue sources, brand development and types of diversification that could lead to profitability.

URBAN AG / Cultivating Connection

by Faith Jackson

3:30 – 4:20PM CONFERENCE ROOM

A journey from farm to table with "Flavor by Faith," encapsulating my journey and the essence of our work.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION / Using Value-Added Products to Decrease On-Farm Food Waste While Increasing Revenue

by Susan Greutman

8:45 - 9:45AM NORTH HALL

In this presentation, Susan will describe how she set out to eliminate on-farm food waste in 2023. She will share how she transformed unsold produce into value-added products, including the spreadsheet she created to help price the products for profit. Susan will share what worked and what didn't work, including her customer preferences and her best advice for anyone wishing to add value-added products to their farm repertoire.

BUSINESS/MARKETING / Online Marketing

by Brandon Caldwell and Caroline Patrick

8:45 - 9:45AM SOUTH HALL

This presentation will cover all the basics of an online presence while showing tools to use to help improve your platform. This is a class for beginners to experienced business owners.

EQUITY AND FOOD SECURITY / Securing Indiana's Farmland Future: Lessons and Strategies for Conservation and Access

by Eavy Barbieux and Liz Brownlee

8:45 - 9:45AM CLASSROOM A

Indiana's farmland is threatened- and the solutions are already here. In this presentation, we'll share practical lessons from other states and programs on improving farmland conservation and access for beginning farmers in urban and rural areas. Learn from existing policies and programs and explore how to effectively apply them in Indiana. The Indiana Farmland Community of Practice is a collaborative effort by Indiana SARE, Partners in Food and Farming (PIFF) and Purdue Extension to address the threat to Indiana's farmland. This year-long initiative brings together ag professionals including farmers, researchers, land trusts, planners and educators to discuss strategies to protect our farmland and support the next generation of farmers.

NICHE OPPORTUNITIES / Fermenting Foods and Drinks for Health

by Joe Gady

8:45 - 9:45AM CLASSROOM B-C

This session will discuss food and drink fermentation, how to do it, and the benefits of consumption. Learn about how to ferment in crocks or jars, and where to purchase the products needed to ferment.

LIVESTOCK / Why Changes to Livestock Antibiotic Laws Make Your Veterinarian So Essential

by Debbie Boyd

8:45 - 9:45AM CONFERENCE ROOM

This presentation will discuss practical rules and guidance that livestock farmers should know when using antibiotics and other drugs on their farms in the current regulatory landscape and how working with a veterinarian is more essential than ever.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION / Fun With Cover Crops and Vegetables - Experiments on a Small Farm

by Aaron Yoder

10:00 - 11:00AM NORTH HALL

In this session, Aaron Yoder will share his experience over 5 seasons establishing a successful garden and how cover crops have played an important role. He will discuss green manuring, how to choose your cover crop, weed pressure, interseeding, companion planting and why certain cover crops are favored over others.

BUSINESS/MARKETING / Agribusiness Initiative (ISBDC)

by David Coates, Monty Henderson and Sarah Hanson

10:00 - 11:00AM SOUTH HALL

We will discuss the many assets that are available to Indiana Small Business Development Center clients in general and further cover the resources available through the team of professional agribusiness advisors made possible by a partnership between Purdue Extension, Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. These services are available to Hoosier farmers and agribusinesses at no cost.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

EQUITY AND FOOD SECURITY / Mrs. Niño's garden:
A farm-based summer school program for teens

by Andrea Crawford and Julia Cordova-Gurulé
SARE Grant Awardee

10:00 – 11:00AM CLASSROOM A

El Campito Child Development Center launched in South Bend in 1970, co-founded by Mexican immigrant Concepcion Niño, who wanted to provide care for the children of farmworkers she had seen in the field as their parents worked. El Campito partnered with community members to launch a garden for its children and for the neighborhood. The garden has 2,500 square feet of vegetable row crops under drip irrigation and another 800 sq. feet in indigenous, "three sisters" formation. Over the last two years, their five-week summer school program has evolved to teach environmental literacy and leadership skills; this presentation will detail the garden's successes and challenges, while also covering how migrant food system workers are supported in Indiana more broadly.

NICHE OPPORTUNITIES / Cage Culture of Fish in Indiana

by Bob Rode

10:00 – 11:00AM CLASSROOM B-C

An overview of cage culture of fish in Indiana from site selection, cage construction to rearing, management and marketing/processing.

LIVESTOCK / Protecting Your Flock Against Avian Influenza

by Geoffrey Lossie

10:00 – 11:00AM CONFERENCE ROOM

This presentation will focus on practical biosecurity measures for poultry keepers to help prevent the introduction of avian influenza and other diseases into their flock. The spread of avian influenza will be discussed along with how to spot a sick bird and the clinical signs associated with avian influenza. Attendees will also learn who to contact and what to do when you have sick birds in a flock.

FLOWERS / Utilizing Native Flowers and Perennials

by John Chapin and Nathalia Bedrava

2:30 – 3:20PM NORTH HALL

Are you considering investing in perennials or native flowers, trees or shrubs for your flower farm? Perhaps you'd like to diversify your offerings on the market or offer unique wholesale options. Maybe you are interested in biodiversity and pest management benefits, or there is the possibility of selling divided perennial plants. Join us in a conversation and learn more about how to use perennials and native flowers as part of a flower farm.

BUSINESS/MARKETING / Targeting Your Customer/
E-commerce & Shipping

by Krista Stillwell

2:30 – 3:20PM SOUTH HALL

Stillwell+Co founding strategist Krista Stillwell will be sharing how to truly understand the "who" in your business - the details of your customer and their behaviors that drive revenue and foot traffic. We will discuss the research, the visualization, and ultimately how to use the data that you find to empower business decisions.

RESILIENT PRACTICES / Implementing the Six Principles of Soil Health

by John Hays

2:30 – 3:20PM CLASSROOM A

We will discuss the six principles of soil health and how we are implementing them on our farm. Our farm is a forage-based operation using livestock to adaptively graze the forage we are producing to regenerate soil health. We are collaborating with other local farmers to incorporate livestock integration into their cover cropping systems. Join us to learn more about our experience and how you can apply these principles to make your farm more resilient.

NICHE OPPORTUNITIES / Thriving on Marginal Land

by Laura Northrup Poland

2:30 – 3:20PM CLASSROOM B-C

Do you have land that doesn't fit into the "well drained, flat, tillable, fertile loam soil in full sun" category? Land that isn't ideal for growing corn or vegetables is often perfectly suited to other specialty crops. This session will discuss how to work with your land instead of against it, harness the unique potential of unconventional farm sites, and merge farming with conservation work to increase your harvest while helping the ecosystem at the same time.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

URBAN AG / EQIP: Beyond High Tunnels. Conservation Resources for Urban and Small Farms

by Cara Bergschneider

2:30 - 3:20PM CONFERENCE ROOM

This session will be a deep dive into resources provided through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to understand how to incorporate conservation practices on small farms in Indiana.

FLOWERS / From Bloom to Bridal Bouquet: Notes on Wedding Floristry for Flower Farmers

by Kate Friesen

3:30 - 4:20PM NORTH HALL

Whether you're looking to expand your business model or express your creativity, wedding work can be a great option. Many growers are intimidated by picky couples, Pinterest pages and pricing, not to mention logistics and mechanics. We'll cover some of the basics of making wedding floral magic that fits your farm, including finding (and booking) couples who match your style, the difference in growing event florals compared to market blooms, sourcing, scheduling, set up and more.

BUSINESS/MARKETING / Money, Money, Money: Finding Profit on Your Farm

by Heidi Potter, Spencer Guinn and Liz Brownlee

3:30 - 4:20PM SOUTH HALL

Let's talk about the reality that most small farmers are not making a living and figure out how to change that. Get a financial snapshot of starting a farm, try out free tools and structures for business development, setting prices, analyzing your business, record keeping and more.

RESILIENT PRACTICES / Digital Tools for Small Farms

by Ankita Raturi

3:30 - 4:20PM CLASSROOM A

In this session we will provide farmers and farm advisors with practical guidance on how to select and integrate appropriate digital tools for short- and long-term farm management tasks, from crop planning to soil health management. We will facilitate a discussion on information management best practices, frame out technology challenges and opportunities, and share our plans for longer term community engagement on digital tools for small farms.

NICHE OPPORTUNITIES / Vermicomposting Small Business

by Stephanie and Mark Duncan

SARE Grant Awardee

3:30 - 4:20PM CLASSROOM B-C

How to vermicompost and ways to improve soil with worm castings.

URBAN AG / Production and Pest Management in High Tunnels on Urban Farms

by Samantha Willden and Laura Ingwell

3:30 - 4:20PM CONFERENCE ROOM

Join this session to learn about common pests present on high tunnel crops during a 12-month growing season. Data from 15 farms will be summarized and compared to determine differences in pest pressure and type between rural and urban farms. An emphasis will also be made on emerging pests, such as tomato pinworm, and effective options for pest management.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Megan Ayers has been a small-scale farmer for almost ten years, focusing on soil health and four-season growing. She moved to Indiana from Cincinnati in 2020 and began a market farm on 10 acres that was previously corn and soy by integrating poultry, a deep mulch system, planting trees and berries, integrating cover crops and bringing biodiversity back to the land. Unvarnished Farm produces a wide variety of produce, eggs and sourdough bread for markets in Jefferson and Jackson counties.



Eavy Barbieux is the research assistant for the Indiana Farmland Community of Practice. She recently graduated from the O'Neill School at IU Bloomington with a dual master's in public affairs and environmental science, focusing on building resilience in our food systems and communities. She has apprenticed on small for-profit and non-profit farms, worked in food advocacy and access in Indiana, and conducted research on organic farming practices on California's Central Coast.



Damon Bazziel is a Purdue Extension Lake County board member, master gardener, and is on the advisory board for the Indiana University NW Community Garden. He is the CEO of AGrowCulture LLC and the president for the Gary Food Council.



Nathalia Bedrava, an Ecuadorian living in Indiana for the past 15 years, found herself falling in love with growing flowers. Coming from the largest producer and exporter of roses in the world, her primary goal was to find ways to grow flowers without harming the environment. Throughout her research, she discovered there are many native species of flowers, trees, bushes and grasses that work for the cut flower world. She just finished her first year as a full-time flower farmer, advocating for no-till practices, pesticide free practices.



Joy Beghtel, and her husband, Greg, own and operate Fields of Joy Farm in Anderson, Indiana. Originally purchased 10 years ago as an established u-pick strawberry business, the farm has had several evolutions and now operates primarily as a cut-flower farm. Joy holds two degrees in social work and enjoys using her flowers as a way to connect with the community through farmers markets, a roadside stand and u-pick flowers on the farm.



Aster Bekele, a longtime tutor and mentor to Indianapolis youth, founded the Felege Hiywot Center (FHC) in 2004. At FHC, young people learn about where food comes from, how it grows, and the science related to the vegetables they grow. Following Bekele's belief that every individual is gifted, no matter how difficult his or her circumstances are, FHC relies on the youth themselves to figure out what is best to do in the gardens and their community.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Cara Bergschneider is the Indiana State Urban Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In this position, she works with conservation professionals to ensure that the small farm, specialty crop and urban farmers of Indiana are aware of conservation practices that can improve natural resources on their farms and have knowledge of available programs through NRCS. Prior to this role, Cara has worked with over 50 specialty crop farmers as the NRCS District Conservationist in Brown and Monroe Counties. Cara is a soil scientist and has a passion for improving soil health.



Debbie Boyd earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Illinois then worked in a largely dairy ambulatory private practice in New Hampshire for 13 years. She joined the Indiana State Board of Animal Health in 2019 as the field veterinarian in District 4 and serves as Director of Animal Drugs and Residue Prevention.



Liz and Nate Brownlee, serves as co-director for Partners IN Food and Farming (PIFF). She has a passion for helping farmers connect and learn from each other. Liz and partner, Nate Brownlee recently celebrated their tenth year running the Nightfall Farm, where they raise sheep, turkeys, meat chickens, laying hens and pigs on pasture. They practice rotational grazing and sell their meat through their CSA, farmers markets chefs, and independent groceries. Brandon Caldwell is the marketing and communications manager for Indiana Grown, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's initiative created to promote products that are grown or made by Hoosiers, for Hoosiers!



Jonas Carpenter co-owns Mavourneen Farm, a small certified real organic vegetable farm and plant nursery located just outside of Bloomington. In addition to farming, he manages the ecological landscaping side of the business, helping folks turn their outdoor areas into useful and beautiful spaces. Over the years, he has explored many approaches to farming and landscaping that utilizes perennial species to diversify and enhance farms and home gardens.



John Chapin, an elementary teacher for 36 years and owner of a landscaping company for 38 years, started Tree Frog Gardens as his "retirement". Tree Frog Gardens aims to grow and sell unusual and/or hard-to-find plants (perennials, shrubs, ornamental trees and conifers). He also writes a bi-weekly gardening column for the ICON (Hendricks County paper).



David Coates is the economic development director for the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. He holds a degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology from Wheeling University and has an extensive background in healthcare, entrepreneurship and workforce development. His primary focus is to engage the broad spectrum of agribusinesses throughout the state and to serve as a facilitator of resources and support. He works closely with agricultural stakeholders, educational partners, local economic development organizations, state and federal agencies to better serve agriculture related business opportunities and their families.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Julia Cordova-Gurulé is the director of the Migrant Regional Service Center for Region 1 and the Bilingual Services Department at the South Bend Community School Corporation. She brings over three decades of experience as an educator and administrator. A passionate advocate for multilingual learners and the children of migrant farmworkers, Julia directs her efforts to ensure equity and the provision of a quality education. Her international travels and commitment to fostering bilingualism, biliteracy and biculturalism led her to establish South Bend's first Dual Language Immersion Magnet. Julia received her Master of Administration degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Utah.



Andrea Crawford is a co-founder of Mrs. Niño's Garden, a farm-based educational project in partnership with El Campito Child Development Center. She has worked as a journalist, writer, magazine editor and educator over a 25-year career. A native of New Harmony, Indiana, she grew up on an 800-acre fifth-generation family farm where she was active in 4-H. After studying journalism and English literature at IU Bloomington, she moved to New York City where, in addition to her career in publishing, she earned a certificate in urban agriculture from Farm School NYC. She apprenticed at Snug Harbor's Heritage Farm on Staten Island, a 2.5-acre production farm using sustainable, low-till practices and trained at Hawthorne Valley, a 900-acre biodynamic farm near Hudson, New York.



Amanda Deering earned her bachelor's degree in biology and master's degree in plant biology from Central Michigan University. She completed her Ph.D. at Purdue University in food microbiology and food safety specializing in fresh produce food safety. Her research focuses on examining internalization of human pathogenic bacteria in plants, as well as routes of contamination that can contribute to plants harboring pathogenic bacteria. Amanda works closely with industry to develop and test novel sanitization treatments that can be used for fresh produce. She leads the Purdue SafeProduceIN team that works to deliver Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) trainings for growers/producers, coordinating education and training for county and campus staff in GAPs and related food safety needs, and developing resources that address the real-time needs of growers in Indiana.



Stephanie and Mark Duncan owners of Duncan's Worm Farm and members of the Worm Farming Alliance. Stephanie obtained her bachelor's in business from the University of Southern Indiana in 1991. They are currently researching ways that vermicompost can be used in large scale crop farming and finishing up on their 2-year grant from SARE (Utilization of Worm Tea on Field Scale Trials for Soil Remediation; Grant ID# FNC22-1324). They recycle cardboard and produce waste by vermicomposting and use castings and make teas and extracts for garden and yard use.



Christina Ferroli, PhD, RDN, FAND, is retired from Purdue Extension-Marion County after 22 years of service as an Extension educator. She is an established grant writer, successfully securing ongoing funding for the signature program, Dining with Diabetes, and for the Summer Camp Enhancement Program through the Summer Youth Program fund. She is a food safety expert and has been a ServSafe instructor with the Indiana Restaurant and Lodging Association for 25 years. She provides food retail and consumer food safety information and is a go-to resource for safe home food preservation.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Kate Friesen is a flower farmer and floral designer from Goshen, Indiana, and has been farming for 11 years. Under Singletree Farm, she and her husband Scott are entering their sixth year growing and arranging flowers for local weddings, the Goshen farmers market and their 100+ member bouquet subscription program.



Joe Gady began fermenting a few foods from his organic farm in 2003. He went from using a few European crocks to selling them at local farm markets and growing into a wholesale production in a certified kitchen in 2014. Now producing artisan live culture foods in 90 crocks, and twelve glass bubblers, much of his organic produce for fermenting comes from local growers and through organic suppliers. Joe has a commercial kitchen in Rochester, where they ferment 14 different foods and 8 drinks and supertonic. His passion is to long ferment and produce the most nutritionally and biologically dense foods that promote digestion and intestinal health. His operation supplies over 30 local and regional accounts, among them natural food stores, food co-ops and restaurants, and provides sampling and in-service education.



Daniel Garcia has managed Garcia's Gardens, a small but mighty urban farm on the far east side of Indianapolis providing central Indiana with healthy produce using organic methods and hosting seasonal events year-round. Daniel holds a degree in plant molecular biology and biochemistry from Purdue University and is motivated by helping others to strengthen and develop a more sustainable food system.



Chad Gard began his professional life as a musician, with degrees in music composition, percussion performance and music education. From there, he had careers in educational technology, custom software development, music publishing and teaching. But it was among the composers that he really developed as a "foodie," as well as most embraced the systems- and pattern-based thinking approach that serve so well on the farm. In 2010, Chad and his now-wife Xenia founded Hole in the Woods Farm, a diversified small farm near Culver, Indiana. In 2019, Chad became a full-time farmer year 'round, producing vegetables, fruits, nuts and lamb, as well as baking rustic artisan breads, while managing a small production team and volunteering as market master for the Culver Farmers' Market.



Tari Gary is the Extension administrator in the Food Science Department at Purdue University. Tari obtained her BS in food science from Purdue and subsequently worked as a food safety manager at a bakery manufacturing facility. Tari began working with the Safe Produce IN program in 2019 as the food safety outreach coordinator at ISDA, where she led outreach and promotional efforts for the program. As the Extension administrator, Tari continues to work with the Safe Produce IN program by assisting with grower, ServSafe and home-based vendor education by providing food safety programming and technical assistance, curating resources and providing administrative support.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Susan Greutman is the owner and director of operations at Sunchoke Farms, an urban farm in South Bend, Indiana. Susan has led Sunchoke Farms through several pivots since the founding of the farm in 2018, most recently specializing in seasonal produce, gourmet mushrooms and microgreens. She has served her customers through Harvest Membership (CSA), local farm markets and local restaurants. Susan has a background in education and loves educating both children and adults on how food is grown and the value of eating locally.



Wenjing Guan is a horticultural crop Extension specialist from Purdue University based at the Indiana Purdue Ag Research Center in Vincennes, Indiana. Her program has a history of working in many important horticultural crops including strawberries, melons, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers and pumpkins. She has experience in open field and high tunnel systems, including hydroponic and bench-top production.



Danielle Guerin is the founder and executive director of Soul Food Project. Since 2017, this urban farm has been growing a wide variety of veggies along with a small flock of hens on less than an acre, providing 35-50 CSA shares per year and developing a workforce development program for all ages.



Spencer Guinn joined the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) in August 2017 as a business development specialist. Prior to joining KCARD, he worked as an engineer, developing, testing and redesigning agricultural and material handling equipment, conducting cost of production studies, and evaluating process efficiencies in new and current manufacturing. Spencer works with businesses on business plans, cost analysis and other needs.



Sarah Hanson is the food systems coordinator for Purdue Extension and has 10 years' of experience as a county-based agriculture and natural resources educator, working with a local food council and other food systems organizations throughout her tenure. Sarah enjoys being a part of the Purdue Diversified Farming and Food Systems (DFFS) team, having a role in the Indiana Small Farms Conference and the Beginning Farmer virtual program. She is spearheading food systems support in the state working to support food businesses and connecting them with the new Purdue efforts for food business training.



John Hays has been actively engaged in agriculture for 40 years in various endeavors including produce, row crops, hay, cattle and pigs. He has experience in both outdoor livestock systems and large Confined Feeding Operations (CAFO). He is passionate about the 6 principles of soil health and implements these principles in his operation. In 2021, John and his wife Jenny formed Hays Family Farm, LLC to direct market the products they produce along with products from producers that are following the same principles for regenerative agriculture.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Kris Heeter is a research biologist at Indiana University and president of the North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX) and the Indiana Nut and Fruit Growers Association (INFGA). She is the director on the board for the Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA) and sits on an advisory panel for Indiana's Partners in Food and Farming (PIFF). She and her husband, Brian, have a small orchard and classified forest on a 100-acre farm in Solsberry, Indiana, where they've worked with INGFA to develop the first Indiana fruit and nut tree repository on their property.



Monty Henderson is the director for the Indiana Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Agribusiness Initiative. Monty began his career with the SBDC as a business advisor counseling individuals in business finance, exporting and market analysis. Throughout the course of his career, he has helped to develop numerous strategies with a wide variety of clients. Now his focus is on leading the Indiana SBDC Agribusiness team to assist and advise businesses, farmers, foresters, producers, processors and manufacturers that support the food chain.



Laura Ingwell is a horticultural crops Extension specialist in the Department of Entomology at Purdue University. Her program has been focused on understanding insect community dynamics in high tunnel production. In addition, she maintains monitoring networks for corn earworm, tomato pinworm and squash vine borer. Recently she has begun investigating composting with black soldier flies to reduce waste and build soil health.



Faith Jackson, the driving force behind Flavor By Faith, an esteemed culinary enterprise, and owner of Indy's Culinary & Farmer Hub, is a seasoned urban and rural farmer and entrepreneur. Faith excels in creating strategic farmer-to-consumer relations, contributing to the enhancement of local food access. Flavor By Faith, specializes in food aggregation, distribution and processing, operating from a certified commercial kitchen and value-added processing facility. Faith ensures the highest culinary standards with board of health compliance farmer/foodpreneur member plans refrigeration, dry storage and commercial freezers. Faith's commitment extends beyond the kitchen as she leverages her ownership of Indy's Culinary & Farmer Hub to implement hands-on applied applications in urban communities, focusing on food deserts.



Matt Kennedy has spent most of his working life as an industrial maintenance technician. He has always had an interest in cultivation of edible foods and has gained experience through YouTube and forums to operate his mushroom farm, Fungi Meadows.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Michael Kilpatrick is a farmer, presenter, host, inventor and online entrepreneur who lives to help entrepreneurs apply business principles and practical, proven solutions to grow their businesses and simplify their lives. He is the owner of Growing Farmers, an online farmer education platform; host of the top-rated Thriving Farmer Podcast; and host of the Thriving Farmer Summit series, which has been viewed by over a quarter million farmers. He has managed large farms and businesses, consulted industry experts worldwide and spoken at dozens of conferences. Michael believes anyone can build a profitable farm by following the proprietary RIPEN system that he teaches in the Small Farm University, his company's educational platform and community for thriving farmers.



Petrus Langenhoven is a horticulture and hydroponics crops specialist at Purdue University with a specialization in hydroponics and vegetable crop production in the open field and high tunnels. He is a key member of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture's Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) and Vegetable Production teams. His strong background in horticulture production research and Extension allows him to leverage research and Extension programming around new technologies and expertise in high tunnel and greenhouse management and open-field vegetable production. Professor Langenhoven serves as director of the Purdue Student Farm and editor of the Vegetable Crops Hotline newsletter.



Geoffrey Lossie is a 2014 graduate of the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine and completed a three-year combined masters and residency program in avian diagnostic medicine. His training focused on diseases and conditions affecting both poultry and pet birds (non-poultry). After his residency he worked for a small, vertically integrated broiler chicken company and then took a position at The Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine before accepting his current position at Purdue. He works at the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic lab as an avian diagnostician and assistant clinical professor in the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine.



Jennifer and Broch Martindale operate a 4-acre cut flower farm, Wildflower Farms in Jamestown, Indiana. The farm focuses on u-pick and wholesale flower production for central Indiana's florists and designers. They started as market farmers and transitioned to u-pick, with a focus on dahlia flowers. Broch works off the farm as a tech specialist for Corteva supporting ornamental growers including cut flower growers across the country. Jen works full time on the farm and is focused on bringing only the best blooms to market.



Liz Maynard serves as the vegetable Extension specialist in Purdue's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (HLA). She collaborates broadly to plan and implement programs integrating education and applied research to improve vegetable farming. Applied research and demonstration projects have included cultivar evaluations, cultural practices in high tunnels, and cover crops and reduced tillage production of sweet corn and cucurbits.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Eran McCarty has raised llamas since 2002 and has worked as a fiber artist, certified llama judge and exhibits her llamas in halter, performance and fleece classes. She has been a 4-H leader and superintendent for the Llama/Alpaca project, served on the International Llama Registry Show Division Fleece Committee and the Greater Appalachian Llama Association Fiber promotion subcommittee. She has taught fiber arts to 4-H exhibitors and enjoys spinning, weaving and knitting with her llamas' fiber.



Genesis McKiernan-Allen has been farming since 2010 and is co-owner and operator of Full Hand Farm, located outside of Noblesville, Indiana. She farms around 5 acres of land with her husband Eli Robb, a dedicated crew, and a half-acre of tunnels for year-round market and restaurant sales in Indianapolis.



Stephen Meyers is an assistant professor in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (HLA) at Purdue University. He conducts research in weed biology, weed-crop interactions, herbicide tolerance and integrated weed management strategies, and provides the state's specialty crop producers with timely, research-based weed management recommendations. Before returning to Purdue, he served as an associate Extension and research professor and sweet potato Extension specialist with Mississippi State University. He and his wife also own and operate Meyers' Produce and Plants, LLC, a small farm in West Lafayette, Indiana specializing in warm season vegetables, cut flowers, honey, eggs and maple syrup.



Scott Monroe, an Indiana native, is the sixth generation in his family to be involved in vegetable production and spent most of his youth working in his family's watermelon fields. He attended both Vincennes and Purdue Universities, earning degrees in agriculture, horticultural science, and plant pathology. Scott has worked in various capacities in the produce industry, including self-employment as the operator of a farm supply store, R&D director for a large vegetable farm and assistant plant breeder for Abbott & Cobb, Inc. Upon coming to Purdue, Scott initially worked as an Extension ANR educator before becoming a food safety educator in 2015. Scott conducts statewide produce food safety programming and research, as part of the Safe Produce Indiana team, from the Purdue Extension Food Safety Training Hub.



Laura Northrup Poland is the farmer, writer and artist of Strawberry Moon Farm. She grows edible native plant crops on ten acres of mixed topography land in Johnson County. Integrating the design science of permaculture, the soil-building practices of regenerative agriculture, organic farming methods and native plants, Laura is on a mission to blur the lines between farming and land conservation. She publishes a free educational blog about Earth-positive agriculture at strawberrymoonfarm.com.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Adrian Odle is beginning her fourth season growing specialty cut flowers on less than a quarter acre on Creekside Meadows. What began as dabbling in veggie seed-starting during the pandemic has blossomed into a life-changing flower farm adventure. Sales avenues include a flower farm stand, u-picks, subscriptions, pop-up markets, bloom buckets, field trips and wholesale to floral designers. Prior to starting Creekside Meadows and staying home to raise their family, she was a business process improvement manager, product manager and engineer for an irrigation pump company. Creekside Meadows is a proud member of Indiana Grown and the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers.



Kathryn Orvis focuses on using plants to educate across multiple settings and audiences from PK12 through adult learners. She improves instruction through developing learner-centered practices in the context of horticulture education, leads STEM instruction via plants for Extension and informal education settings and improves plant use in teaching through applied discovery. She teaches the intro to horticulture course, a teaching with plants course for ag education undergrads, as well as one of the three 1-credit courses in the DEI modules developed by the department. Additionally, she mentors undergraduate and graduate students for research and Extension programming.



Heidi Potter is the founder and farmer of Summer Solstice Farms in Deputy, Indiana. The diversified farm began in 2011 in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and moved to Jefferson County, Indiana in 2016. She raises Dexter cattle and dairy goats and grows an almost-year-round market garden. Her farm products have been sold at local farmers markets and food pantries through the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) grant program. Heidi also serves as the agriculture and natural resources educator for Purdue Extension in Clark County, Indiana.



Ankita Raturi is an assistant professor at Purdue University and runs the Agricultural Informatics Lab, where they practice community-engaged research, human-centered design and software development to support increased resilience in food and farming systems. Her areas of expertise include digital tools for small farms, decision support tools for cover crops, designing new tools for small farm management and community-led data stewardship. Ankita also advocates for responsible, accessible and inclusive digital tools through the Gathering for Open Ag Tech, a community of farmers, researchers, coders and allies.



Bob Rode, lab manager of the Aquaculture Research Lab at Purdue, has a MS in Aquaculture from Auburn University and has worked in both the public and private sectors. His most recent experiences have been on walleye and largemouth bass fingerling production by using hybrid pond tank systems.



Whitney Schlegel, with her partner, owns and operates a 150-acre diversified livestock farm in Monroe County, Indiana. The Angus beef cattle, Shetland sheep and laying hens are managed in a rotational and regenerative grazing system. Grass-finished beef, pasture-raised eggs and Shetland wool products are sold at a variety of different local markets and online. Their flock of Shetland sheep provide an array of natural colored wool, which is processed into yarns, roving and wool products for retail sale, and the white wool is hand dyed using plants and flowers grown on the farm.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Tim and Beth Anne Sheets own Heritage Farm Suri Alpacas in central Indiana and have been raising Suri alpacas for 20 years. Over the past few years, Beth has fallen in love with alpaca fiber and is increasing her knowledge of fiber arts through weaving, spinning and dyeing fiber. They believe the importance of increasing the value of the fiber and its usage to ensure the future of the industry.



Suzi Spahr, raised on a grain and beef farm in Indiana, works as the executive director for the North American Farmers Direct Marketing Association (NAFDMA) International Agrotourism Association. Membership has more than tripled since she started working with NAFDMA in 2019, and she continues to make enhancements to the organization.



Krista Stillwell graduated from IU's Kelley School of Business in 2010 and joined the media world in radio in downtown Indianapolis. She worked alongside much of the hustle and bustle in the city planning corporate events, large community events and promotionally strategizing for the sales teams. Krista learned early in her career that her passion for empowering small business owners to achieve their goals was stronger than her desire to work in corporate America. She founded Stillwell+Co, a team of women focused on meeting the needs of business owners who have great instincts, but just need them empowered forward.



Samantha Willden is a postdoctoral researcher at Purdue University studying the effects of urbanization on pest presence and ecosystem services, namely biological control. Her goal is to develop IPM practices for specialty crops that address the needs of growers in urban areas.



Roger and Mary Winstead established Beautiful Edibles in 2015 as a small-scale market garden. The farm is located on the last two acres of Roger's family homestead in Paradise, Indiana. Roger holds a BS in landscape architecture from Purdue, and Mary is a former accountant. Beautiful Edibles offers an online farm store, multi-season CSA memberships and wholesale bulk produce. In 2021, they established an urban mushroom farm in downtown Evansville. The farm is part of the Local Source Food Hub, a farmer owned cooperative. Beautiful Edibles partners with local producers and organizations to promote volunteerism and education in our regional food markets.



Aaron Yoder, a 1997 graduate of Purdue University's ag engineering program, has worked as sales engineer of hydraulic and gearing components for nearly 20 years. Aaron grew up on a 3rd generation dairy farm, where his father made forage and cover crops an integral part of his operation. His father was committed to caring for and building healthy, living soil and growing quality, nutritious feed for his animals. Aaron has had the tremendous experience of experimenting with cover and companion cropping with market crops, trying his best to incorporate what he learned growing up, watching and learning from his father's approach of using whole and sustainable practices.

TRADE SHOW VENDORS

Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

ag.purdue.edu/department/hla
ljollybr@purdue.edu

Diversified Farming and Food Systems

extension.purdue.edu/anr/_teams/dffs/index.html
nlshoaf@purdue.edu

Gathering for Open Agricultural Technology

goatech.org
ankita@purdue.edu

Good Valuation, Inc.

goodvaluation.com
info@goodvaluation.com / 260-920-3000

Indiana AgrAbility / INdiana PREPared / Purdue Ag Safety & Health

agrability.org inprepared.org
ejsheldo@purdue.edu / 800-825-4264

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/nongame-and-endangered-wildlife
agillet@dnr.in.gov / 812-822-3400

Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association

ifwoa.org
ifwoa1@gmail.com / 765-496-5013

Indiana Irrigation Co., Inc.

Indianalrrigation.com
inirrigation@gmail.com / 574-626-3398

Indiana Organic Network (ION)

purdue.ag/ion
ion@purdue.edu / 765-496-2173

Indiana Poultry Project, Purdue Veterinary Medicine

vet.purdue.edu/discovery/beauvais/research.php
wbeauvai@purdue.edu / 765-496-2549

Indiana Sheep Association, Inc

indianasheep.com
executive@indianasheep.com / 317-607-5664

Indiana State Department of Agriculture

in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation
soilsampling@isda.in.gov / 317-605-0701

Keep It Watered

keepitwatered.com
steve@keepitwatered.com / 574-549-4887

Marion County SWCD

marionswcd.org
kevin-allison@iaswcd.org / 812-698-2559

Nifty Hoops

niftyhoops.com
jessica.alex@niftyhoops.com / 734-845-0079

Office of the Indiana State Chemist

oisc.purdue.edu
carter14@purdue.edu

Partners In Food and Farming

indianafarming.org
liz@indianafarming.org / 317-258-5217

Purdue Extension Farm Stress Team

extension.purdue.edu/farm_stress
klanzzone@purdue.edu / 765-569-3176

ReportInvasive

ag.purdue.edu/reportinvasive
rfbruner@purdue.edu / 765-409-7176

SARE

northcentral.sare.org/state-programs/indiana
lmccartn@purdue.edu / 317-462-1113

Savanna Institute

savannainstitute.org
xinyuan@savannainstitute.org / 585-737-3227

Society of St Andrew - Indiana

endhunger.org/indiana
in-glean@endhunger.org / 317-607-0004

The Land Connection

thelandconnection.org
crystal@thelandconnection.org / 217-840-2128x50

Urban Soil Health

urbansoilhealth.org
info@urbansoilhealth.org / 360-317-6752

USDA - Indiana Farm Service Agency

fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Indiana/index
angie.stuehrenberg@usda.gov / 317-295-5902

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/Indiana
cara.bergschneider@usda.gov / 317-295-5801

USDA-RD

rd.usda.gov/in
anthony.kirkland@usda.gov \ 317-295-5569

RESOURCES

Purdue Extension Web Links

Horticulture & Landscape Architecture Extension Home Page
ag.purdue.edu/department/hla/extension/index.html

Entomology Extension Home Page
ag.purdue.edu/department/entm/extension/index.html

Commercial Nursery and Landscape
ag.purdue.edu/department/hla/extension/nursery-and-landscape.html

Consumer Horticulture (Indiana Yard & Garden)
purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden

Controlled Environment Agriculture
purdue.edu/hla/sites/cea/

Diversified Farming and Food Systems
extension.purdue.edu/anr/_teams/dffs

Horticulture Business
purdue.edu/hla/sites/hortbusiness

Pest & Crop Newsletter
extension.entm.purdue.edu/pestcrop

Purdue Master Gardener Program
hort.purdue.edu/mg

Entomology Extension Vegetables
extension.entm.purdue.edu/veg

Entomology Extension Fruit
extension.entm.purdue.edu/fruit

Midwest Vegetable Production Guide
mwvegguide.org

Extension Newsletters & Blogs

Facts for Fancy Fruit
hort.purdue.edu/fff/fff.shtml

In The Grow
purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/publication/in-the-grow

Purdue Landscape Report
PurdueLandscapeReport.org

Vegetable Crops Hotline
vegcropshotline.org/

Yard & Garden Calendar
purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/publication/gardening-calendars

Yard & Garden News
purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/publication/yard-and-garden-news

Consumer Horticulture (Indiana Yard & Garden) Facebook
[@PurdueHomeHort](https://www.facebook.com/PurdueHomeHort)

Purdue Extension NWCH Twitter
[@PurdueHomeHort](https://twitter.com/PurdueHomeHort)

Purdue Horticulture Extension Facebook
[@PurdueHorticultureExtension](https://www.facebook.com/PurdueHorticultureExtension)

Purdue Hort Extension Twitter
[@PurdueHortExt](https://twitter.com/PurdueHortExt)

Purdue Ent Extension Facebook
[@PurdueFruitVegIPM](https://www.facebook.com/PurdueFruitVegIPM)

Purdue EntomologyExtension Twitter
[@PurdueExtEnt](https://twitter.com/PurdueExtEnt)

Purdue Landscape Report
 Facebook [@PurdueLandscapeReport](https://www.facebook.com/PurdueLandscapeReport)
 Twitter [@PurdueLandscape](https://twitter.com/PurdueLandscape)

Purdue Master Gardener Program
 Facebook [@PurdueExtensionMasterGardenerProgram](https://www.facebook.com/PurdueExtensionMasterGardenerProgram)
 Twitter [@PurdueMG](https://twitter.com/PurdueMG)

Diversified Farming and Food Systems
extension.purdue.edu/anr/newsletter.html

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!



SAVE THE DATE

2025 March 4 & 5

OVERALL SPONSOR



Extension



SMALL
FARM



URBAN
AGRICULTURE



ORGANIC
AGRICULTURE



LOCAL
FOOD



BEGINNING
FARMER

Purdue Diversified Farming and Food Systems is an Extension program made up of an interdisciplinary group of faculty, staff, Extension educators, students, practitioners and partners.

We work to connect programming, research and learning focused on urban agriculture, community wellness, local food, beginning farmers, small farms and organic agriculture, and the Purdue student farm.



www.purdue.edu/dffs



An Equal Access/Equal Opportunity University

Agricultural Administration Building
615 West State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2053
Phone (765) 494-8490