Fulton County, Indiana



Extension - Fulton County

AG NEWSLETTER

ABBY ANSPACH

Hello! I'm thrilled to be in Fulton County as the new ANR (Ag and Natural Resource Educator).

A bit about me: I was born and raised in Pulaski County on my family's grain farm. I attended Purdue University, where I earned my bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics. After graduating in December 2013, I entered the cooperative system with North Central Cooperative. This is where I expanded my passion for agriculture, learning about the business from the ground up. For the past 12 years, I have enjoyed working with growers on their soil fertility through the precision agricultural sector of the cooperative.

I still reside in Pulaski County with my husband, Luke, and our two children, Tripp and Olivia. Together, we farm and raise cattle. Between helping on the farm and spending time with family, I also enjoy reading, photography, and gardening.

I'M EAGER TO WORK WITH THE FULTON COUNTY COMMUNITY AND EFFECTIVELY EDUCATE OTHERS ABOUT AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

ABBY

We are working to update our mailing list! Please return the included Postcard with your communication preference.



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UPCOMING PARP EVENTS

White Co. Popcorn PARP-6/18/25

12244 N Upper Lakeshore Dr. Monticello IN. Nitrogen Management; Popcorn Nitrogen Study; Food Safety and Pestcide Recordkeeping; 2025 Regulatory Update. Register 219-984-5115

Pinney Purdue Crop Diagnostic Training-6/18/25

Topics include Corn and Soybean diagnostics, weather and insect damage. Save the Date! Pinny Purdue Field Day- 8/20/25

Topics include Corn Updates, Weed Management, Irrigation, Purdue on the Farm, Ag Economic Update. Save the Date!

"The threat of severe weather is likely above normal for April, May, and possibly June."

NEED PESTCIDE APPLICATOR REC-ORD BOOK?

We have Pesticide Applicator Record Books available in our office free of charge! Stop in if you need one!

WET AND STORMY SPRING EXPECTED AS LA NIÑA EASES MIKE RYAN, SENIOR METEOROLOGIST, NATIONAL WEATHER

The climate outlook for Indiana predicts a wet and stormy spring as La Niña conditions ease. After a cold January and February, March has seen warmer temperatures, with several days reaching the 70s. This warmth has brought severe weather, including thunderstorms with damaging winds and tornadoes on March 15th and 19th. The Climate Prediction Center forecasts warmer and wetter conditions, typical during the late winter and early spring with La Niña. The storm track is expected to frequently cross the Ohio Valley, leading to a wetter, more active pattern through spring. The threat of severe weather is likely above normal for April, May, and possibly June. Wetter conditions may result in near-to-slightly above-normal river flood risk in the southern two-thirds of the state, potentially easing moderate drought conditions in the northern half. La Niña has weakened since February, with ENSO neutral conditions expected to develop through spring into early summer.

For the full article written by Mike Ryan, Senior Meterologist, National weather visit; https://mailimages.purdue.edu/vo/?FileID=99a93157-2f54-47f8-ad30-6b02f4047316&m=264f9bd1-5220-4950-8934ce900a5f14c1&MailID=47440953&listid=1003102&RecipientID=25510043233&_ga=2.2 25762706.981756528.1747061315-1077926761.1747062318

COVER CROPS, WINTER ANNUALS WEEDS, CATERPILLARS AND CROPS

Written by Christian Krupke.

Every spring, black cutworm moths and armyworms invade our state. They don't overwinter here,

but move north each spring seeking sites to lay eggs. Both are sporadic and unpredictable and although trap counts help, they are not always a reliable predictor of larval populations. At this time, when we may see damage to crops, it's worth reviewing a few key parts of the biology of these annual invaders.

Larvae of both moths will be actively feeding now. The increased popularity of cereal rye as a cover crop presents new opportunities for egg-laying female armyworms to find attractive food sources (grasses are their favored hosts), while black cutworms may favor broadleaf weeds, including chickweed and a range of cover crops.



A true armyworm larva on a grass

For both species the highest risk for egg laying occurs where dense vegetation (either cover crops or winter annual weeds) is present. Fields with sparse weeds are not likely to harbor as many larvae. In both cases, the risk comes when annual weeds or cover crops are terminated and the hungry caterpillars move onto the main crop for feeding – neither black cutworms or armyworms are obligate corn feeders but both will do well on corn seedlings, with black cutworm able to feed on soybean as well. Armyworm larvae will attempt to feed on soybean, but cannot effectively digest the foliage and will die shortly afterwards.

The question about ideal termination often arises. Ideally, cover crops or dense annual weeds will be terminated 2-3 weeks before corn emergence. With the wet weather of most springs, this often is not possible. A period of weeks is ideal, but there is not a magic number of days to starve out caterpillars. The rule of thumb is that the longer the period between termination of cover crops or weeds and emergence of the main crop, the better. Caterpillars need to feed often to survive and cannot go without food for long, so even a few days of no host plants will reduce their populations dramatically.

One last reminder: Don't be dependent on traited-corn, as high armyworm or cutworm infestations may still cause significant damage before the Bt-proteins suppress their feeding. An ideal reference to understand which Bt-traited corn has efficacy against specific insects is the "Handy Bt Trait Table." This table, produced by Chris DiFonzo, Field Crops Entomologist at Michigan State University, is worth a look. It can be downloaded HERE. Remember that seed-applied neonicotinoid insectides do not have efficacy against armyworm, although there are many effective options for control with following setting.

with foliar insecticide sprays. A reminder that with this insect, especially when they are "marching" in large numbers, scouting for caterpillars and damage still wins the day.



The five larval instars, or stages, of black cutworm. Only the larger instars damage plants by "cutting", as shown; younger larvae will notch leaf edges.

PURDUE EXTENSION

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Purdue Extension enriches Indiana communities through comprehensive programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources, promoting sustainable practices; Health and Human Sciences, enhancing well-being; Community Development, fostering economic growth; and 4-H and Youth Development, empowering the next generation. We deliver practical, research-based information that enhances lives and livelihoods.

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