

# Over the Back Fence

*Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter*

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## Shop Local!



*The Corydon Farmers Market is open every Friday, 4PM - 7 PM at 124 South Mulberry Street*

## Purdue Extension Harrison County

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## Educator's Editorial

### Best Kept Secret?

Ever heard the phrase, "Extension is the best kept secret?" Some of you (as well as our staff!) may not believe this to be true, but there are still many members of our community who do not know how Extension can serve them right here in Harrison County!

We strive to meet the needs of our community and that takes help from you! Thank you to those who support Extension by sharing your time and stories. April is Volunteer Appreciation month and we hope to be able to thank each of you for your support towards Extension.

Keep checking our website and Facebook page for communication from our office.

*Miranda C. Edge*



Extension - Harrison County

# ReGrow Indiana

## Our Mission

To help the forest of Indiana regrow and flourish. To increase the rate of native species. To help the forests of Indiana provide wildlife with shelter and nutrition. To get the community of Indiana involved.

## We are regrowing Indiana in your community

Japanese Honeysuckle chocking out mighty White Oak trees. Bradford Pear trees stealing sunlight for growing saplings. These are the struggles that the Indiana forests have been dealing with for many of years. We are striving to regrow the forests of Indiana natively to help with the struggle of invasive plants. You as a community member of Indiana can help the forests too!



*Emily Bruce at the opening day of the Corydon Farmers Market giving away free trees to help Regrow Indiana!*

## Native Species

Native plants are plants that originally grow in a certain area. Planting native can help the native wildlife thrive. Native plants come in all colors, shapes, and sizes perfect for your outside project or decorating. Native species can easily replace invasives. They are usually easier to grow, keep, and buy. Visit [regrowindiana.squarespace.com/native-species](http://regrowindiana.squarespace.com/native-species) for more information about native plants.

*For More Information, please visit Regrow Indiana's Website at [regrowindiana.squarespace.com](http://regrowindiana.squarespace.com)*

## Invasive Species

Invasive plants are plants not originally from an area. Invasive species can decrease the rate of native species and can possibly lead them to expiration or extinction. Invasive plants don't just harm native plants, but also native animals. Invasive plants take away nutritious food sources and habitat from wildlife, and replace them with less nutritious, toxic, and harmful plants. This can lead the native wildlife in the same direction as the native plants, expiration and extinction. Indiana has several species of invasive plants. It is easy to purchase an invasive plant and mistaken it as a native. Check out [regrowindiana.squarespace.com/invasive-species](http://regrowindiana.squarespace.com/invasive-species) for a list of common invasive species to watch out for and avoid.



*Emily Bruce talks to 3rd graders at Ag Day about how to help ReGrow Indiana*

# OISC Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal

## What

Indiana Pesticide Clean Sweep Project designed to collect and dispose of suspended, canceled, banned, unusable, opened, unopened or just unwanted pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, miticides, etc.) is being sponsored by the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC). This disposal service is free of charge up to 250 pounds per participant. Over 250 pounds there will be a \$2.00 per pound charge. This is a great opportunity for you to legally dispose of unwanted products at little or no cost.

## Who

All public and private schools, golf courses, nurseries, farmers, ag dealers, general public, cities, towns, municipalities and county units of government or others receiving this notice are eligible to participate.

## Participation Form

Please go to [oisc.purdue.edu](http://oisc.purdue.edu) to complete the Clean Sweep Participant Form or email [cleansweep@groups.purdue.edu](mailto:cleansweep@groups.purdue.edu) to have a participant form emailed.

## Dates/Locations

### 9AM - 3PM Local Time

#### August 16, 2022:

Ceres Solutions  
Wabash County  
573 East 700 South  
Wabash, Indiana 46992

#### August 17, 2022:

Bartholomew  
County Solid Waste District  
720 S. Mapleton Street  
Columbus, Indiana 47201

#### August 18, 2022:

Daviess County Highway Dept.  
5247 East 100 North  
Montgomery, Indiana 47558

#### August 23, 2022:

Davis Purdue Agricultural Center  
Randolph County 6230 IN-1  
Farmland, Indiana 47340

#### August 24, 2022:

Co-Alliance  
Porter County  
210 East 400 South Valparaiso,  
Indiana 46383

#### August 25, 2022:

Hendricks County Fairgrounds  
1900 E. Main St.  
Danville, Indiana 46122

# Harrison County Agricultural Fair

June 13 - June 18, 2022

Get ready for the 163rd Consecutive Annual Harrison County Agricultural Fair! Gates are open Monday through Friday at 4:00 PM. Saturday, the gates open at 3:00 PM. Pay \$10.00 at the gate on all days. Price includes admission, parking, and unlimited midway rides and general admission to the shows on the grandstand. Midway rides open Monday through Friday, 5:00 PM to 11:00 PM and Saturday, 4:00 PM to Midnight. Check out the full fair schedule at [harrisoncountyfair.com](http://harrisoncountyfair.com).



# Harrison County 4-H Fair

June 11 - June 16, 2022



The Harrison County 4-H Fair will be June 11th through the 16th. Livestock shows will begin on June 11th with the livestock auction starting at 6:00 PM on Thursday, June 16. Harrison County 4-H youth members will proudly showcase their projects and livestock they have worked hard on this year. Visit the 4-H exhibit hall anytime between 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM (providing a volunteer building watcher is available) Sunday, June 11 through Friday June 18th. To view a full 4-H fair schedule, visit the Purdue Extension Harrison County's website at [extension.purdue.edu/harrison](http://extension.purdue.edu/harrison).

# Nature Camp

July 19 & 20 for grades 3-5

Join us for two days of hands on learning about nature and the world around us. We will use Purdue Extension's The Nature of Teaching curriculum to explore topics like wildlife, mental health, nutrition, and physical activity on Day 1. Day 2 will include meeting local wildlife up close and more hands on learning about how to connect with our environment. Youth may join one or both days of our day camp. Snacks and water will be provided. There is no cost for this event, however, we do require registration and health forms to be turned in for each attendee. All youth are invited. 4-H membership is not required. Space is limited, so call to reserve your spot TODAY! 812-738-4236

# Junior Master Naturalist

July 11-15 for grades 9-12

The Junior Indiana Master Naturalist Program can provide children with many hands-on opportunities to learn about our Hoosier natural resources. It also provides a way for them to discover, through volunteer service, the land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, state and local parks, or other natural resource and conservation agencies in Indiana.



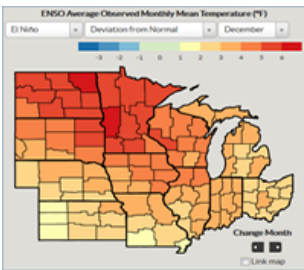
Weather and climate patterns are a driving force behind the success or failure of Corn Belt cropping systems. Useful to Usable (U2U) was a multi- year, multi-university integrated research and extension project, funded by the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Its mission was to improve farm resilience and profitability in the North Central U.S. by transforming existing climate data into usable products for the agricultural community. The suite of decision-support tools was a product of this effort to help producers make better long-term decisions on what, when and where to plant, and how to manage crops for maximum yields and minimum environmental damage. The Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC) was a partner in this effort and is proud to be a co-host of the project’s suite of decision-support tools

## AgClimate Viewer



A convenient way to access customized historical climate and crop yield data for the U.S. Corn Belt. View graphs of monthly temperature and precipitation, plot corn and soybean yield trends, and compare climate and yields over the past 30 years.

## Climate Patterns Viewer



Discover how global climate patterns like the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Arctic Oscillation (AO) have historically affected local climate conditions and crop yields across the U.S. Corn Belt.

## Irrigation Investment Tool



The U2U Irrigation Investment tool lets you explore the potential profitability of installing irrigation equipment at user-selected locations across the Corn Belt. Discover how many years from 1980-2005 irrigation would have been profitable, calculate the net present value of investment, and compare dryland and irrigated corn and soybean yields under different rainfall conditions.

## Corn GDD



Track real-time and historical GDD accumulations, assess spring and fall frost risk, and guide decisions related to planting, harvest, and seed selection. This innovative tool integrates corn development stages with weather and climate data for location-specific decision support tailored specifically to agricultural production.

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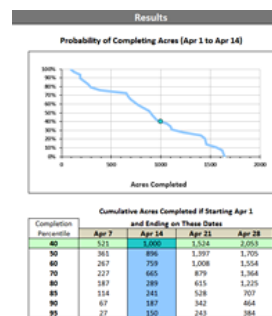
## Corn Split N



Determine the feasibility and profitability of using post-planting nitrogen application for corn production. This product combines historical data on crop growth and fieldwork conditions with economic considerations to determine best/ worst/ average scenarios of successfully completing nitrogen applications within a user-specified time period. Now available for 12 states in the north central U.S.

Determine the feasibility and profitability of using post-planting nitrogen application for corn production. This product combines historical data on crop growth and fieldwork conditions with

## Probable Fieldwork Days



This spreadsheet-based tool uses USDA data on Days Suitable for Fieldwork to determine the probability of completing in-field activities during a user-specified time period. Hosted by the University of Missouri, this product is currently available for Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri.

# Climate INformer

Beth Hall, Director, Indiana State Climate Office, Purdue University

Spring is here -- both meteorologically (started March 1st) and astronomically (started March 20th). While we may be anxious to start planting flowers, hosting cook-outs, and wearing shorts and flip-flops, spring is a time of lots of ups and downs. I remember many years ago when I was 16 and taking the in-car driver's exam. While my birthday is in late February, I couldn't schedule the test until April 20th. Well, at least I don't have to worry about it snowing when I take the test, I thought. Nope. It managed to snow on April 20th (I was living in Cincinnati at the time). Two years ago, as we were staring wide-eyed at a pandemic that failed to end by Easter, we were wondering how to handle Mother's Day (May 10, 2020). Sadly, the overnight lows on May 9th ranged from the mid-20s to low-30s F across the state. Some crops were already planted and perennials were already making an appearance. Damage was intermittent, and the disappointment of such cold temperatures put a further damper on already stressed times.

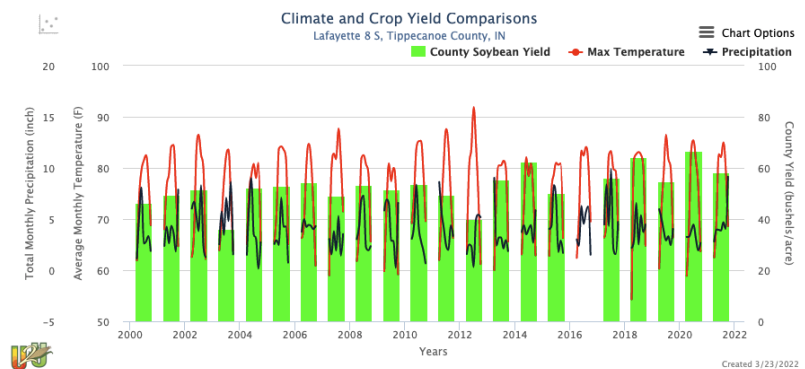
## The Climate Toolbox

There are quite a few places to go online to view past temperature and precipitation data for your area. However, if you're interested in seeing how county-level corn and soybean yields compared to past temperature and precipitation patterns, you'll want to check out the AgClimate View tool

[mygeohub.org/groups/u2u/purdue\\_acv](https://mygeohub.org/groups/u2u/purdue_acv).

This tool allows users to select a nearby weather station, taking them to a web page with options to view historical temperature and precipitation, compare years against each

While these are relatively extreme cases, these ups and downs of temperature extremes and precipitation events are typical. In fact, 10 years ago (2012), high temperatures in the upper 80s lasted for almost two weeks in March! Of course, that spring was soon followed by our most recent, significant flash drought event that caused much concern across the Midwest. Hang in there and enjoy the nice days when you can, pause and respect winter's unwillingness to let go sometimes, and know that spring is a time of re-birth, new beginnings, and hope of good things to eventually come between the days of ups and downs. We hope you enjoy being subscribed to this newsletter. Feel free to share this with others (they can subscribe here). We'd love your feedback too, so if you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to email me at [bethhall@purdue.edu](mailto:bethhall@purdue.edu).



other, view the climatological average of these parameters, and view annual corn and soybean yields based upon county reports.

Data are available back to 1980. AgClimate View is part of a larger suite of products from the Useful to Usable (U2U) project, funded by USDA-NIFA, that includes tools to assess crop growth, manage frost risk and guide fieldwork decisions.

# Climate Outlook

## La Niña is Sticking Around

Last December, computer models predicted the El Niño - Southern Oscillation (ENSO) index values that were leaning toward La Niña conditions would fade toward the more neutral phase of the ENSO pattern. However, the current La Niña conditions are continuing to persist longer than originally expected.

What this means is continued confidence for above-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation for the next few months. That is not to say that Indiana won't experience some cold and/or dry spells here and there, but when averaged over a month or multi-month period, the climate outlooks are favoring a warmer and wetter spring.

See the latest [Midwest Climate Impacts and Outlook](https://drought.gov/documents/quarterly-climate-impacts-and-outlook-midwest-region-march-2022) and [Great Lakes Climate Impacts and Outlook](https://drought.gov/documents/quarterly-climate-impacts-and-outlook-midwest-region-march-2022) reports for a summary of other potential impacts throughout the region at [drought.gov/documents/quarterly-climate-impacts-and-outlook-midwest-region-march-2022](https://drought.gov/documents/quarterly-climate-impacts-and-outlook-midwest-region-march-2022)



# Climate Community

## CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow) Network

CoCoRaHS is a non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure precipitation (rain, hail, and snow). By using low-cost measurement tools, offering training and education, and utilizing an interactive website, the aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education, and research applications. There are CoCoRaHS observers in all fifty states. Each time a rain, hail, or snow storm crosses your area, volunteers take measurements of precipitation from as many locations as possible.

These precipitation reports are then recorded on the CoCoRaHS website at [cocorahs.org](https://cocorahs.org). The data are displayed and organized for anyone to analyze and apply to daily situations ranging from water resource analysis and severe storm warnings to neighbors comparing how much rain fell in their backyards.



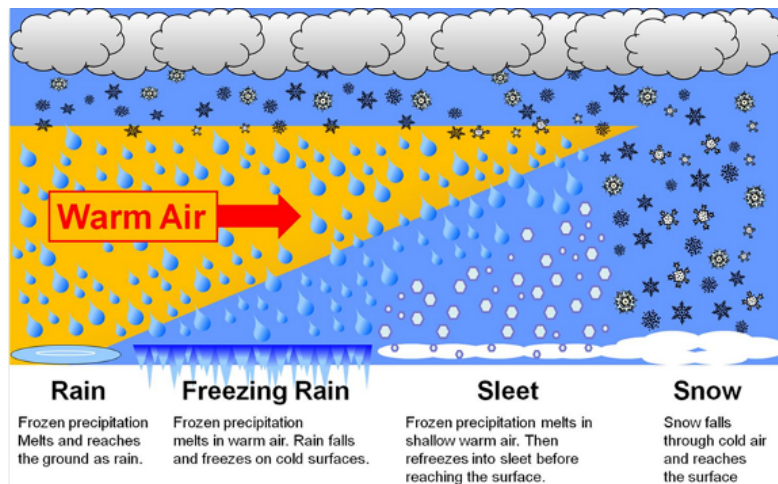
# Ask an Expert

## Is hail, sleet, and snow all the same?

When precipitation doesn't fall as liquid raindrops, it's easy to assume that hail, sleet, and snow are synonyms meaning the same type of "frozen precipitation." However, there are significant distinctions among the three types that are important to realize.

There are three standard states of matter -- solid, liquid, and gas. With respect to the water molecule, H<sub>2</sub>O, the solid phase is ice, the liquid phase is water, and the gaseous phase is water vapor. Water vapor is invisible. One might think that we can see water vapor when we see steam rising, but this is actually vapor that has condensed and changed phase to liquid. When we talk about humidity, that is vapor. However, there is a limit to how much vapor the air can hold, and when it has reached its limit, it must condense. If it condenses when the air is above freezing, it will condense into cloud droplets or steam droplets. If it condenses when the air is below freezing, the vapor will skip the liquid phase and crystallize into snow.

Snow forms in clouds when the temperatures are well below freezing. If the snow grows large enough to fall out of the cloud, the temperature of the air through which that snowflake is falling determines the type of precipitation that reaches the ground. If there is a warm layer of air, enough for that snowflake to melt, then the thickness of that warm layer is important.



If the air near the ground is below freezing, the snowflake that melted when it fell through the warm layer will now freeze as it passes through the cold layer before reaching the ground. This is called sleet (or ice pellet). Sleet is a frozen rain droplet before reaching the ground. Sleet and snow are most common during the colder seasons.

Hail is associated with severe thunderstorms and not common in the colder seasons. There is some uncertainty about hail formation, but the general theory is the circulation within thunderstorms forces the hail stone back and forth between warm and freezing areas within the storm cloud. The stronger the thunderstorm, the longer it can toss that hailstone around, allowing it to grow larger in size. At some point, the turbulence inside the storm cloud and the mass of the hailstone will throw the stone out of the cloud and it will fall to the ground, often with significant force. For more information and pictures of the different types of precipitation, check out the National Weather Service's JetStream web page.



# NWS Storm Spotter Training

Various Dates

The National Weather Service offers various training opportunities to the public to be volunteer weather / storm spotters. [https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter\\_talks](https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter_talks)

## Monthly Climate Outlooks Webinars

### Third Thursdays

NOAA, USDA, and other climate partners co-host the North Central U.S. Climate Summary and Outlook Webinars. These are held monthly on the 3rd Thursdays of the month at 2 PM Eastern Time. Receive email notifications and get registered for upcoming webinars by emailing Doug Kluck ([doug.kluck@noaa.gov](mailto:doug.kluck@noaa.gov)).

## CISMA Quarterly Lunch & Learn

May 19, 2022

### Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas

The Impact of invasive species on the next generations of your favorite wildlife begins in 2022. We are looking forward to sharing all of the incredible events over the past year and discussing how they are making a positive impact on our green spaces and our wildlife.



As we move into 2022 we need your assistance and input so please join us for a fun-filled conversation! We cannot tell the story of your work if you don't share the work with us, so join us on **May 19**. This is a free and virtual event for Indiana CISMA members and partners to network and learn. Registration is required. For more information and to register, go to [sicim.info](http://sicim.info).

# IBEF Updates

## Bull Breeding Soundness Exam

Thursday, May 31, 2022

United Producers-Little York

Appointment Times 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

\$45 per bull for the exam, deworming, and vaccinations

Research has shown that about 10% of all beef herd bulls develop a problem with reproductive ability each year. These problems can include internal structural soundness, semen mobility, semen quality, external structural soundness, and animal condition. While 10% doesn't sound terrible, if your bull is one of those "duds" it can mean no calves from your herd the following spring. In Clark County, the average cow herd is about 20 and a loss of 20 feeder calves from a farm's revenues can mean a loss of \$15-20 thousand dollars with today's market prices.

To make appointments for your bulls call the Purdue Extension Office of Clark County at 812-256-4591. The Breeding Soundness Evaluation Clinic is sponsored by the Clark County Cattlemen's Association.

## Validation Workshop

**June 20-23, 2022 (In Person)**

Validation workshop is designed for food processors that are already producing aseptic shelf-stable products or installing new commercial lines for future production needs. The workshop will provide insights into key aspects of validation and hands-on exercises with validation methods. Validation workshop will be helpful and suitable for process authorities, food and packaging engineers, microbiologists and those involved with the validation process at your facility. Contact Dharmendra Mishra for questions related to content at [mishradh@purdue.edu](mailto:mishradh@purdue.edu).

# Better Process Control School

May 20, 2022

Government Information Day, or GID, is a free biennial conference for librarians interested in learning about government resources and improving information literacy. The conference is typically held at the Indiana State Library, and serves as an excellent networking opportunity for Indiana or government documents librarians. The Indiana State Climate Office will be co-hosting an information booth alongside the National Weather Service and the Midwestern Regional Climate Center. Learn more at <https://feddocs.lib.in.us>

## Breeding for EAB-Resistance: What Does the Future Look like for Ash?

Thursday, May 26, 2022, 11:00 AM ET

EAB threatens the survival of ash trees in the U.S. where it is a common hardwood species especially in riparian and wetland forests. Ash was also used extensively for soil conservation (including wind breaks) and in urban green spaces and streets. Surviving, or “lingering”, ash trees that had maintained healthy canopies for at least two years after all other large ash trees had died were identified in natural forests long-infested by EAB. EAB egg bioassay experiments confirmed that these trees have an increased level of resistance due to defense responses, including death of early instar larvae, larvae with significantly lower weights, or leaves less preferred for feeding by EAB adults. This webinar discusses research now being done to further understand this phenomenon and other findings to develop tree-improvement programs that could be successful in producing EAB resistant seed. Longer term goals include combining the best performing progeny from many families into a second generation seed orchard, so that the seed produced may be used for restoration plantings.

[msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_D7p9FPvrQny85oLrokOQL](https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D7p9FPvrQny85oLrokOQL)

Q



REGISTER BY MAY 23 TO PARTICIPATE

# MANAGING FARM RISK WEBINAR SERIES



[REGISTER  
HERE!](#)

**JOIN US FOR A FREE WEBINAR SERIES  
WEDNESDAYS MAY 25 - JUNE 29, 11AM-NOON ET**

Join an experienced team of Extension educators, specialists, faculty, and a lawyer as we present the *Managing Farm Risk Webinar Series*. This series will encompass a techniques and tips to mitigate, transfer, and avoid risks in production, marketing, financial, legal, human resource, and social media. Risk is inherent to any business, and farms arguably face more risks than another businesses. Contingency plans will help businesses efficiently recover from disruptions or disasters. Through this webinar series, managers, owners and key employees will be better prepared for disruptions and disasters that their business and/or family will inevitably encounter. This free webinar series will consist of 6 webinars, topics below:

- May 25: Human Resource Risk
- June 1: Legal Risk
- June 8: Production Risk
- June 15: Social Media Risk
- June 22: Marketing Risk
- June 29: Financial Risk

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



Extension



NORTH CENTRAL  
EXTENSION  
RISK  
MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION

This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2018-70027-28586.

# Ag Day 2022

July 19 & 20 for grades 3-5

On Thursday, May 5th and Friday, May 6th over 600 third grade students in Harrison County were invited to attend the Annual Ag Day at the Harrison County Fairgrounds. The event was organized by community organizations and hosted by the Harrison County-Purdue Extension. Students visited many sessions, presented by volunteers and agriculture supporters in the community. Highlighted sessions included: Emily Bruce, Invasive and Native Plants; Officer Jim Schreck, ATV Safety and Search & Rescue Unit; Embryology, 4-H Educator Rebecca Wilkins; Grain Bin Safety, New Middletown Fire Department; Rabbits, Rob and Pat Byerly; Livestock, Extension Educator Miranda Edge; Soil and Water, Marla Sieberns, Chris Miller and Virginia Morris; Harness Horse Racing, Ellen Young; Plant Parts and Uses, Master Gardeners. Corydon Central, Lanesville, and South Central FFA Chapters served as group leaders and help prepare lunch items during the day.

During lunch, Marcia Harmon-Gliottone and Jean Geswein presented, Harrison-the boy who disliked agriculture. Harrison is a third grade boy who thinks agriculture is unimportant. He tries to get ready for school and then realizes, after talking with his mom, that he cannot eat breakfast, wear clothes and shoes, or even feed his dog without agriculture.



The students were provided lunch that consisted of a hotdog, bag of popcorn, cheese square, clementine, scoop of frozen custard, and a bottle of water. A special thank you to the organizations who sponsored lunch: Harrison Co. Farm Bureau, Inc., Harrison County Cattleman's Association, Preferred Popcorn, and Day Farms.

The third grades students shared some comments about the day. Mrs. Kacie Wither's 3rd Grade class submitted:

"The thing that was good about Ag Day was that we got to learn about different animals and how they grow." Emmanuel Hernandez



"I loved when we got to pet the bunnies. They were soft and adorable." Aniston Likes

"We learned that a lot of things come from farming. I was surprised that a lot of the clothes we wear come from farmed materials." Calvin Whittinghill

Mrs. Cheryl Gutknecht said, "The students learned so many new things at Ag Day...from what an auger is to different types of bunnies to ATV safety. They were so excited to go to each new station to see what else they were going to learn!"

"All the stations were fun, but you just can't beat seeing and learning about baby animals, so of course my favorite was the sheep station!!" Olivia Clark. 3rd grade CES

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ANR Newsletter



Extension - Harrison County

# Over the Back Fence

*Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Newsletter*

**Miranda Edge**  
County Extension Director  
Extension Educator  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

**Rebecca Wilkins**  
Extension Educator  
4-H Youth Development

**Mary Eve**  
Office Manager

**Position Open**  
Extension Educator  
Health and Human Sciences

**Anna Denny**  
Program Assistant

**Jane Lasher**  
Administrative Assistant

**Julie Age**  
Administrative Assistant

## Connect with Us!



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